

Living with HIV 'Del Otro Lado':
San Francisco HIV educators film an unusual gay love story in Mexico City.
page 20

Frank appeal:
Domestic partner benefits for Federal employees.
page 24



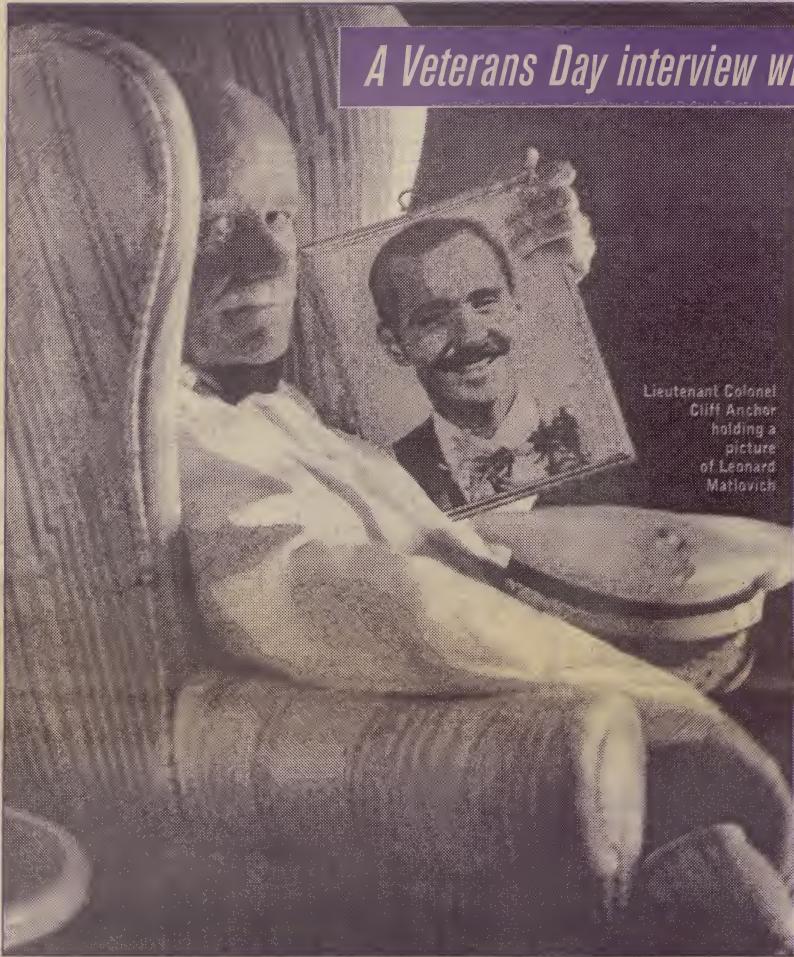
The naked truth
Tim Miller on his new book, 'Shirts & Skin.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 45 • 6 November 1997

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A Veterans Day interview with an officer and a gentleman

Gay vet says, 'Never forget'

by Ron Lazar

An inscription on the gravestone of Leonard Matlovich at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC reads, "When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one." The "one" he referred to is his surviving partner, Cliff Anchor, who achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the California State Militia, assigned to the 69th Public Affairs detachment in Sacramento.

Anchor's political activism for gay rights and his strong belief in being out of the closet led to his picture in *Time* magazine on May 24, 1993, in uniform, kissing another uniformed officer. An articulate man in his early sixties, Anchor is very busy, undaunted by his HIV infection, still actively lobbying for civil rights for gays and lesbians.

He continues to live in the Sonoma County home he and Matlovich shared, where the late soldier's pictures and memorabilia are lovingly displayed. Perched at the top of a mountain above the sea of fog that blankets the redwood valleys and the Russian River below, the modest house, like Anchor himself, is sturdy, quiet, and comforting.

With Veterans Day nearing, on November 11, the B.A.R. spoke with the retired lieutenant colonel about Matlovich, his views on the struggle gays and lesbians still face, and his determination to "never

page 22 ►

It's suddenly Susan

by Wayne Friday

Supervisor Susan Leal became the first member of the lesbian/gay community to win citywide election in San Francisco (other than to the Board of Supervisors) when she garnered nearly 58 percent of the vote Tuesday, November 4, easily defeating two other candidates to become the new city treasurer. Leal, a Latina lesbian who was first appointed to the Board in 1993 and subsequently re-elected, is an attorney and businesswoman. She currently chairs the Board of Supervisors' powerful Finance Committee.

Leal will take office in January, and Mayor Willie Brown will then appoint a replacement to her seat on the Board of Supervisors, who will then have to seek election to the post next November. Most City Hall observers expect Brown to appoint someone from the city's lesbian/gay community to the seat. In the city's only other public office election, City Attorney Louise Renne, running unopposed, won another four-year term.

On Tuesday, San Francisco voters also passed Propositions A (water system bonds), B (water quality bonds), D (lease

approvals), F (Mount Davidson cross), and G (campaign consultants). The propositions that went down to defeat were C (police/firefighter retirement benefits) and E (Youth Commission). The most controversial proposition on the ballot was H, the plan to rebuild the Central Freeway, which passed by a 53-47 percent margin.

In national races, Republicans fared well, retaining the governorships in both Virginia and New Jersey, and holding onto the lone House seat up for grabs in New York City's 13th (Staten Island) District. Popular NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican, easily won re-election, despite the heavily Democratic 5-to-1 voter registration edge in the nation's largest city.

Washington state's Prop. 1-677, an initiative that would have become the first in the nation to ban job discrimination against gays through a voter referendum, was defeated in a vote viewed as a setback to gay rights. Voters in Washington also rejected legalization of marijuana and gave the National Rifle Association a victory by rejecting a plan that would have required trigger locks on handguns. Oregon voters rejected a measure that would have repealed the law there that permits assisted suicide. ▼

AIDS money soars past billion mark

by Bob Roehr

Funding for HIV/AIDS finally lumbered out of the Congressional appropriations process this week, as part of the budget for the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS funding is traditionally one of the last measures to emerge.

Ryan White CARE programs will break the billion dollar mark for the first time, soaring 44 percent to \$1.4 billion. Money is up in all categories. The biggest increase is an additional \$118.5 million for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), a 71 percent increase. Research funding at NIH will rise by \$105 million.

"Considering the 1997 budget agreement limiting the pool of funds available for our programs, our achievements so far have been remarkable," said the AIDS Action Council in a memo to its members.

"There is real leadership in the fight against AIDS today, and it is clearly coming from Congress," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "While the president and the vice president continue to give speeches

INSIDE

ACT UP	29
BAR Talk	60
Classifieds	32
Geek Grrrl	11
GLAAD	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	58
Obituaries	28
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	54
Out There	39
Past Out	14
Personals	62
Sapphicitation	10
Sports Complex	30

page 22 ►

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SF gay cop, prosecutor head to White House hate crimes confab

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco law enforcement officials attending the White House Conference on Hate Crimes this Monday, November 10 will include Assistant San Francisco District Attorney Chuck Haines, a gay man, and lesbian San Francisco police hate crimes investigator Sandy Bargione.

After a welcoming breakfast hosted by President Clinton at the White House, participants will be transported to Washington DC's George Washington University for the day-long conference, after which they will be feted at a post-conference reception.

The event will include workshops on various issues related to hate crimes, a panel discussion, and some sort of address from the president. Vice President Al Gore,



Chuck Haines

cabinet secretaries, and administration officials are also expected to make appearances.

Haines, an openly gay 16-year veteran prosecutor who recently announced his candidacy for a seat on the San Francisco Superior Court bench, is the former head of the San Francisco District Attorney's Hate Crimes Prosecution Unit. He is now managing attorney for the District Attorney's office, where he makes charging decisions concerning prosecutions.

"We're extremely proud that Chuck has been invited to the White House. It's fitting that he was invited to go back to Washington to attend the conference," said John Shanley, a spokesman for District Attorney Terence Hallinan. "He's the lead person in the office relative to charging decisions. He always conducts an extensive review of cases with an eye to whether to prosecute for hate crimes."

Two members of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects will attend the conference, but representatives of local com-

munity groups, including Community United Against Violence and Intergroup Clearinghouse, which are involved in historic anti-violence efforts, including public policy advocacy and services to victims of lesbian and gay and other hate crimes, were not invited to the event.

While community activists and advocates acknowledge the importance of law enforcement efforts and say they are happy that White House Conference on Hate Violence attendees will have an opportunity to network and meet with other professionals, they express concern that community-based efforts to address hate crimes issues may not get the emphasis they deserve.

"Hate violence happens in a national context but takes place on a local level and is solved on a local level," said Community United Against Violence Executive Director Lester Olmstead-Rose. "To find real solutions to violence, you have to find local models that effectively prevent and effectively treat it. My fear around what might happen in Washington is that the emphasis will be on policy and legislation, rather than implementing models on a local level that help people on the street."

"This kind of conference should start with people who do the work on a day-to-day basis. Chuck Haines knows more than anybody how to prosecute on hate crimes, which is why it's wonderful that he's going, but my fear is that it may be a little top down," he said. ▼

SF gays to broadcast Clinton's Human Rights Campaign speech

Business Wire

San Francisco-based PlanetOut, the largest gay and lesbian site on the Internet, has announced that it will cybercast President Clinton's speech at the Human Rights Campaign's Annual Washington, DC dinner this Saturday, November 8. It will be the first-ever address to a lesbian and gay audience by a sitting president of the United States.

"Only 1,500 people can fit into the ballroom to hear the historic Clinton speech, but with PlanetOut's live audio cybercast, the rest of the world can listen, too," said Tom Rielly, CEO of PlanetOut.

Internet and AOL users can listen to the cybercast live from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time at www.planetout.com. Users can also hear the archived speech at any time after the live event.

The cybercast, *Hangin'OUT with the President*, will be anchored by GLOradio's *Hangin'OUT* co-hosts John McMullen and Chelle Miley.

"What most people are likely to see or hear of this historic event in the mainstream media is a sound bite. By contrast, we will have the complete, live, unedited program

from appetizers to dessert," said John McMullen, general manager of PlanetOut Broadcasting. "We encourage our Internet-equipped listeners to invite their friends who may otherwise be unable to listen in to house parties, making the broadcast available to an even wider audience."

PlanetOut uses Real Network's RealPlayer software, which is built into many versions of Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer or can be downloaded and installed in advance from www.real.com or www.aol.com for AOL users. The free software operates on Macintosh, Windows or Unix platforms over 14.4 Kbps, 28.8 Kbps and higher modems. To download the software, go to www.real.com. ▼

PlanetOut's radio programming is available at www.planetout.com, www.gloradio.com, or on America Online at Keyword: PNO Radio. It received AOL Member's Choice award, putting it among the top 5% of AOL areas. Unlike other gay websites, PlanetOut continues to be free of charge. For a free PlanetOut starter kit, call 1-800-719-6611.

SF AIDS orgs announce annual dinners

by Dennis Conkin

Two of San Francisco's best known AIDS organizations have announced important benefit dinners in the coming week.

SF police commission postpones 'Megan's Law' discussion

by Ron Lazar

The absence of key police personnel at the Wednesday, October 29 San Francisco Police Commission meeting has forced commissioners to postpone discussion and action on the "Dissemination of Information Regarding Registered Sex Offenders" for two weeks.

The commission will take the matter up again Wednesday, November 12.

Currently, according to information released November 4, the San Francisco Police Department alerts communities to the presence of offenders with multiple arrests and convictions of violent crimes, including at least one conviction of a violent sex crime. Commissioners were to discuss a new and broader proposal, based on the controversial "Megan's Law" that catalogues California sex offenders' names and addresses on CD-ROMs: whether to give San Francisco schoolchildren "sex offenders maps" to take home.

Triangles printed on the maps would designate the general location of sex offenders, by indicating areas of approximately 20 homes. Each triangle contains a person whose name appears on the CD-ROM. Although the map information would not contain names of offenders or their specific addresses, the intended purpose, according to one school official, is to provide to the parents enough information to protect their children from higher risk zones.

According to a Los Angeles ACLU spokesperson, the maps raise concerns on a number of issues of freedom and civil rights; some fear that peaceful individuals may become targets of harassment through a process of elimination, as has already happened in some neighborhoods. Other issues include the maps' possible effects on real estate values, and the unnecessary increase in fear and suspicion, especially for people whose homes are located within the triangles.

The ACLU spokesperson also commented that 40 percent of the information on the CD-ROM for L.A. county was inaccurate.

The police commission will welcome public comments about the proposal, limited to three minutes, at the meeting. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Room 551, Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant St. ▼

Controversial AIDS scientist Dr. Robert Gallo, former San Francisco Department of Public Health director Dr. Sandra Hernandez, and founder Martin Delaney will be featured speakers at Project Inform's 1997 Evening of Hope on Friday, November 7.

This year's annual benefit will be held at the Westin St. Francis in Union Square, with a 6:30 p.m. cocktail reception and dinner at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$125.

Shanti will hold its ninth annual awards dinner on Thursday, November 13 at the Sheraton Palace Gold Ballroom, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Former director Gloria Sandoval will receive special honors, and a variety of corporate and private donors and volunteers will be honored for their efforts on behalf of Shanti Project, including David Johnson, Eldive Montero, Cyndy Zimmer, Veronika



Dr. Sandra Hernandez

Cauley, and Martin Douglass. Tickets are \$150. ▼

For information about Project Inform, call 558-8669. For information about Shanti Project, call 487-4764.

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Stage struck



Gay and lesbian elected officials and candidates mob the stage Nov. 1 during the annual Bay Area Lesbian & Gay Nonpartisan Alliance dinner. An award of honor was given to Mayor Willie Brown, who accepted it on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and also to Senator Dianne Feinstein, who was a no-show.

Gay man sues City College, alleging HIV discrimination

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man with HIV infection lost his City College job after he innocently

thanked his supervisor for letting him have time off when he was sick or had a medical appointment, according to allegations detailed in a San Francisco Superior Court lawsuit filed Thursday, October 30.

The City and County of San Francisco and the Community College District are named as defendants in the HIV disability discrimination case filed by attorney Geoffrey Kors of the Law Offices of Paul Wotman. City College Library and Learning Resources Dean Rita Jones is also specifically

turned thanked her and Jones for accommodating his requests for leave.

However, according to the complaint, when Costa said he had received leave because of complications related to his HIV illness, Jones turned extremely hostile and told Costa that she would not carry him on the payroll — and then ordered Young to change Costa's evaluation to "unacceptable" so he could be fired.

"I was surprised and frightened by the sudden and complete change in behavior and voice of

Young told Costa on "numerous occasions" that his performance met all expectations.

ly and individually named as a defendant in the lawsuit filed on behalf of Carlos Costa, a former City College employee.

Costa, a permanent civil service employee who was a city employee for 12 years, had received a promotion to the position of library technical assistant with the community college in May 1996, according to the complaint.

The same month, Costa informed his immediate supervisor Annie McMillan Young that he was HIV-positive, and on several occasions Young approved his requests for leave related to his illness.

In September 1996, Young gave Costa a formal performance appraisal stating that Costa was competent and effective in his job, after telling him on "numerous occasions" that his performance met all expectations, according to Kors.

After that, Kors said, all employees holding the same position in the department were scheduled for 15-minute meetings with Young and Jones, the head of the Library Sciences department, to discuss their work evaluations.

According to the lawsuit, Young allegedly praised Costa's work at the meeting, and Costa in

the Dean," Costa said in a formal rebuttal to the second evaluation. "My intention was to show my appreciation, but it came out more like mentioning a terrible crime."

Inhumane, appalling, immoral, illegal

"Dean Jones flipped," Kors told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "She acted surprised and asked what he was talking about. It's really abhorrent that a City College Dean would order a review changed after an employee said he had HIV, and then tell him that she didn't want to carry him on the payroll.

"She outright ordered the review be changed. It's completely inhumane and appalling. It's immoral, and it's illegal," Kors said.

Costa told the *B.A.R.* that Jones also became sarcastic after she learned he had HIV. At one point in the ensuing discussion, Jones even mockingly questioned his memory, he alleged.

Young, who has since retired from the college district, prepared a second performance review as allegedly ordered — this time saying that Costa's performance was unacceptable and that her third month appraisal "was deemed"

page 30 ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF PWA fights owner move-in eviction

Case illustrates SF rent ordinance abuse

by Mark Mardon

A respected member of the San Francisco gay community engaged in an ongoing landlord-tenant dispute is facing eviction from the Dolores Street flat he has occupied since 1989, under what he alleges are hostile and fraudulent circumstances. The proceedings may have serious ramifications, not only for the man's health and well-being, but also for the way San Francisco deals with the current tidal wave of "owner move-in evictions" that landlords use to get around laws designed to protect renters.

The conflict arises at a time when the Board of Supervisors is considering legislation designed to halt or limit landlords' ability to evict elderly or disabled people — as well as those diagnosed with terminal illnesses — by means of the owner move-in loophole in the city's rent laws.

"We get some very heart-wrenching calls here from people with AIDS who are being evicted by owners using that loophole," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano. He is calling for a moratorium on evicting seniors and those with any kind of life-threatening illness, including AIDS.

In the last year alone, according to the Rent Stabilization Board, landlords have used the loophole, which allows property owners to evict tenants from a unit if they themselves intend to move in and occupy it for at least a year, to leverage more than 1,000 people out of their homes. Throughout the city, the number of owner move-in evictions more than tripled during the last five years as available rental units have become increasingly scarce (the vacancy rate has dipped to about one percent) and their market value has soared. Those most affected by the loophole, as demonstrated in a recent study by Americorps-VISTA, have been renters in the rapidly gentrifying Haight, Castro, Noe Valley, and Mission districts.

'Fuck off, fag!'

At the center of the current high-profile dispute is William Hershon, who has been living with the AIDS virus since 1982, and whose work on behalf of those struggling with HIV and AIDS has received official commendation by Mayor Willie Brown and several members of the Board of Supervisors.



Beleaguered tenant: William Hershon stands in front of the Dolores Street apartment in question.

After moving into the Victorian house flat on Dolores Street that a friend had been renting (and continued to share until his AIDS-related death) since 1982, Hershon developed a close relationship with the building's then-owner, an elderly woman who lived in the downstairs flat. He says he took her to the market at least once a week, and helped her with spring cleaning, errands, and minor household maintenance and repairs. In addition, he entirely renovated his flat, plastering walls and ceilings, priming and painting the walls and woodwork, and laying new floors. As a result, Hershon says, his landlady's gratitude was so great that she treated him like a son, and promised that he could reside in the building as long as she or her heirs were alive.

But when the woman died in January, her heirs soon sold the house to a group of partners who promptly served Hershon with an eviction notice. They advised him

that they intended to move into his unit, making it their home. But as Hershon discovered in investigating their claim, the partners — James Sloate, Sean C. Dwyer, and Kristina M. Deruntz — appeared to have undertaken similar owner move-in evictions at other properties they had purchased on Haight and Sutter Streets. When he contested the eviction, the partners temporarily withdrew their demand.

At that point, alleges Hershon and his attorney, Richard Hurlburt, the partners initiated "a campaign of torment and intimidation" and deliberately failed to maintain and repair the rental property. According to a letter Hurlburt sent to the property owners' attorney, the partners entered Hershon's unit without notice or reason, and interfered with his personal property. They continually blocked his driveway and parked in a garage exclusively

page 21 ▶

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Electing to change

oters didn't exactly pour out of their homes to their polling places this week — trickled is more like it — but the results are in, and it's official: Latina lesbian Susan Leal will take her place as San Francisco's new treasurer. Although the increased visibility of a lesbian politician might not seem all that important to a few comfortably blasé Bay Area residents, most will recognize that it is another huge step forward in our efforts to gain acceptance and credibility across America.

Some of our readers may be too young to remember the days when homos and lezzies — for that's all we were then — were considered unemployable for most jobs, but our older readers have no problem recalling when that was the status quo. Those who were obviously queer could be hairdressers, or interior decorators, but those who wanted other careers were forced to hide their sexuality or risk losing their present and future jobs. At that time it was hard to imagine it ever getting better; certainly, the average homosexual wouldn't have confidently predicted that a day would come when an openly gay person would be put in charge of nearly three trillion dollars of municipal money. Now that it's a verifiable fact, we congratulate Leal and the voters who made it happen.

It is also a nice touch that it happened so close to the twentieth anniversary of Harvey Milk's first election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He may not have been the very first gay elected official, but he was certainly a pioneer who cleared the way for more to follow. We look forward to the event commemorating his first triumph this Saturday, November 8, at Harvey Milk Plaza, and hope to see all our friends and his at 2 p.m. when the festivities begin.

We wonder how many other successful businesspeople out there have shown themselves to be leaders like Leal and Milk, and could be the kind of role model they have been, but are still fearfully hiding their homosexuality. Relatively few, perhaps, here in our mostly liberal area, but there are probably millions in the rest of the country, and that's a shame. As always, coming out is the best thing anyone can do to advance civil rights for gay people, and we would encourage everyone to do so, taking whatever



Rick Gerhardt

City attorney Louise Renne and newly-elected city treasurer Susan Leal on election night.

comfort and strength they can from Leal's victory.

Unfortunately, as was shown by the defeat of a Washington state ballot measure that would have protected the jobs of people who do come out, there are still real dangers to be faced. The sad fact is that in most areas, gay people are still expected to keep their secret hidden. And so the vicious circle continues: without protections, most people won't dare to come out; without people coming out, the rest of America won't know that we are just like them, and therefore deserving of protections.

Of course, the worst situation is for those in the military. Those brave men and women live with a written policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" (which really means "Don't you faggots dare tell!"), whereas for the rest of the country it is merely tacitly understood.

As America gets ready to celebrate Veterans Day, we think it's shameful and hypocritical that lesbian and gay vets will be mostly ignored again. Or worse. Considering that the Department of Defense discharged 850 people under the policy in 1996 — more than two per day — it is entirely likely some who are currently serving may get notice on that holiday that they are being investigated (so much for the "Don't Ask" part), or discharged (so much for "Don't Pursue").

Since that is the case, we suggest readers celebrate Veterans Day by contacting the Ser-

vicemembers Legal Defense Fund and offering to help them fight the current deplorable situation. They can be reached at (202) 328-3244, and they would love to hear from you.

And speaking of intolerable bans, we were heartened to see the results of the latest Harris Poll that Americans overwhelmingly support needle exchange to cut down on HIV transmission, and are against the current federal ban on such programs. Now, if only Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala would get the message and eliminate the prohibition, perhaps the nation could reduce new infections to the levels enjoyed by other developed countries (virtually all of them) that have made clean needles available to addicts. The solitary path that America has traveled has been disastrous; perhaps it was paved with good intentions, but it is littered with road kill.

The same is obviously true of the "abstinence-based sex education" — an oxymoron if ever one existed — that led to the current disaster in New York State, where one man may have infected more than a dozen teen sex partners. Statistics show those kinds of tragedies are least likely to happen when kids are truly educated, instead of blindfolded, at school. Trying to educate kids about sex by focusing solely on abstinence is analogous to teaching a cooking course by focusing solely on fasting.

It is time for this country to face the facts: the ban on gay soldiers ruins lives; the bans on needle exchange and honest sex education literally take lives.

And yet, the bans play on... ▼

Editorial



More HIV+ gays on top, please!

by Robert S. Perkins, J.D., Ph.D.

It occurs to me that most good and generous people who give to AIDS organizations have no idea they are paying for dinners and trips and office furniture and decorations and various perks of one sort or another. Fewer and fewer dollars are going into the hands of persons living with HIV disease; instead, the money fuels the engine of bureaucracies, and a great deal of it goes into the salaries and other benefits for HIV-negative decision-makers. Many people are making a good living off this disease, but very few are HIV+ gay men.

Why is this mess getting out of hand? It is multi-causal, but is substantially because the people making these decisions are not part of the affected community. The decision-making and policy-making for AIDS social services should be principally in the hands of the gay male community, and preferably in the hands of the gay male HIV+ community. Unfortunately, that is not the case at most AIDS agencies.

These agencies talk about cultural competency, but do not follow it. While we need HIV-negative persons and women and others to give their help, it is becoming increasingly clear that only those who live with HIV disease can ultimately have a true and complete sensitivity regarding some of these decisions. AIDS service agencies seem to know where we are when they need us for their statistics to increase their funding, but when it comes to hiring HIV+ gay men,

they seem to have a great deal of difficulty finding us!

I know some will quote percentages of increases in other populations that seem to imply that the "face of AIDS" is changing. However, the facts are still clear: this is still a disease affecting principally gay men, but gay men are not making policy for the HIV community. The president has even appointed the third straight woman in a row to be his "AIDS czar." It is time for the situation to change.

What does it do to the overall self-image of the gay HIV+ male community to have the most important decisions facing the health of our community made by people not part of what we are going through? After all, it is not as though there is no pool of qualified HIV+ gay men who can step in here to take up the slack. They have not been asked or invited to do so.

It is as though we were all a bunch of pathetic, helpless and unqualified victims, unable to make these decisions for ourselves, so therefore we need others, not of our community, to make the best decisions for us! This is proven more and more as time passes, by the decisions they are making. There priorities are confused. They are often making decisions that are best for the future of their jobs or their agencies or their friends or their power base or their bank accounts.

At any given agency, I want to know how

many self-identified HIV+ employees they have, or if they have an aggressive approach to the hiring of qualified HIV+ people. Does their employee workforce reflect their client base make-up? Are the executive director or the board chair gay or self-identified HIV+ persons? How many high level policy-making employees in the agency are HIV+ or are at least gay? Are the self-identified HIV+ employees holding the highest paid positions in this agency or the lowest paid positions?

In the end, it is a question of empowerment ethics, and public policy. It is time for all those involved to understand that we need to be empowered, and others need to step aside now. We are capable of making these decisions, and we should be making them.

This is especially true now that combination therapy has allowed many talented and qualified HIV+ men to return to the workplace. Nothing empowers an HIV+ gay man as much as a good job! More importantly, they can be much more effective in the formulation of public policy.

This discussion will threaten those who are entrenched and benefiting from the status quo, but the current situation is the result of the gay community not raising these questions in a crescendo of voices until now, and is wrong for the gay community to tolerate. I hope that raising the consciousness level here will stimulate people who can begin to make some changes. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Tessie's wish list

Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners has been providing Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter dinners for over 23 years. Our goal is to provide a well-balanced meal for our seniors, the handicapped, homeless, and the poor. Everybody is welcome.

We rely on donations of food, money, time, and energy provided by local business and members of the community, to accomplish this goal. Our volume has increased to over 1,200 dinners served per holiday. We desperately need your support, so we may continue to serve those less fortunate in our city. Below is our wish list for this year:

Turkeys or Hams, Canned Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce, Potatoes, Yams, Turkey Stuffing, Gravy, Salad (Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Carrots, etc.), Salad Dressings, Breads Rolls Butter, Coffee, Tea, Fruit Punch, Sugar, Sweet & Low, 1/2 and 1/2 or other creamer, Desserts of all types (Cakes, Pies, Cookies, etc.), Paper Plates, Knives/Forks/Spoons, Napkins, Plastic Tablecloths...

Our dinners are at The First Unitarian Universal Church of San Francisco, located at 1187 Franklin Street at Geary, between 1 and 4 p.m. If you can help us with a donation, or would like to volunteer, please contact A.L. Allen at (415) 621-1169.

Thank you for your community support!

A.L. Allen
Secretary, Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners
San Francisco

Woefully sinister Pithy

Your Out There column gets sillier and sillier with each issue, and I don't mean in a fun way. In the October 23 issue, [Chris] Culwell and [Pithy] Galore prefaced comments on the near-masterpiece, *Boogie Nights*, with, "Now, we despise political correctness..." and then proceeded to argue that the homosexual character of Scotty was a "woefully sinister depiction of a queer." Right, and *All About Eve* sheds an unacceptable negative light on Broadway divas. Homosexual guys like Scotty really do exist (unfortunately), and these two know damn well they do.

What's woefully sinister is two so-called writers being allowed to perpetuate a homosexual stereotype (I'm talking about the whiny, self-pitying loser) while simultaneously condemning such practice. Thank God we were not represented as such in the landmark movie *In & Out*, which a lot of straight people are seeing and which these two also failed to see the value of. It's called objectivity, people. Look into it!

Mailstrom

Anthony Rhody
San Francisco

Lowbrow for Rita Mae

Upon reading Deborah Peifer's review of Rita Mae Brown's memoir, the first thing that comes to mind is an echo from Murphy Brown: "What planet is she on?" I recently read and thoroughly enjoyed *Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser*, and while I allow it is possible that someone might not find Brown's conversational writing style to her taste, I have difficulty with a review that mutates into an ad hominem attack on Brown and the entire body of her work. Perhaps it simply proves that I am a cliché-loving lowbrow, but I like what Rita Mae Brown writes. Unfortunately for those whose literary sensibilities may be more delicate, there are numerous lowbrow readers like me who enjoy being pleasantly entertained and will keep Brown's books in print as long as she cares to keep writing them.

Charles E. Galvin, Jr.
San Francisco

Supporting agencies that support us

As a person with AIDS, I was honored to be invited to the first meeting Mobilization Against AIDS had with members of the community. It was refreshing to hear Executive Director Donna Rae Palmer honestly explain what happened and ask the community how to change the Dance-a-thon and again make it a successful event. Too many organizations report the gross amount of money from an event and not the amount that truly goes to serve people with AIDS. This is a welcome change compared to many organizations in San Francisco claiming to serve the AIDS community yet refusing to involve and bring from participation the very people they claim to serve. I challenge people with AIDS and their supporters to kick out the AIDS professionals who profit from our disease and get behind an organization that listens to us and truly serves us. We can start now by sending our money to organizations like Mobilization Against AIDS or AIDS Emergency Fund, who support people with AIDS, and not supporting the bloated, non-responsive organizations such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Mike Donnelly
San Francisco

Thatcherism at SFAF

"I could go on and on and on," former British PM Margaret Thatcher once told a reporter inquiring about her retirement. Her own party and the British public thought otherwise and soon put the Iron Lady out to pasture.

Evidently, Thatcher confused her tenure with that of her nominal boss, Elizabeth II. AIDS patients face a similar confusion and intransigence with the Iron Lady of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Executive Director Pat Christen.

Pat Christen has ruled SFAF from its beginnings, more than a decade ago. At other large service organizations, like GMHC, APLA, and Whitman-Walker, executive directors come and go. Pat and her cronies become ever more entrenched. During the last year, particularly in the case of Michael Petrelis, she's acted like she rules by divine right. Unlike the House of Windsor, Pat's monarchy recognizes no constitutional restraints. Royal Pat scorns the consent of those she "serves" and does not suffer oversight gladly. She and her cronies are out of touch with people with AIDS in San Francisco; she has lost their trust and support. Like Dick Nixon during Watergate, Pat Christen has forfeited the mandate she needs to do her job.

Lacking a mandate and oversight from those it pretends to serve, Pat and other SFAF employees represent only themselves. That doesn't stop them from spending big amounts of community money to impose their own job protection agenda on national AIDS policy. Without any local consensus, SFAF aggressively lobbies Congress and the Clinton Administration to prioritize AIDS service jobs and welfare over healthcare. Granted, a few gullible PWAs may embrace SFAF's paternalism, yet they are not the majority. SFAF, however, neither listens to nor cares what the majority wants. Such arrogance may be par for the course in a monarchy. But activist leaders like Petrelis, Jeff Getty, Hank Wilson, and Jeff Sheehan are making it abundantly clear that patients want democratic oversight and accountability, not royal paternalism.

The new AIDS drug combinations have ushered in a new stage of the AIDS epidemic. Britain's Iron Lady played a necessary role in the cold war, but changing times called for a change in leadership. The same holds for Pat Christen.

Scott Furman
President, Log Cabin San Francisco

ACT UP/SF was right

It was a year ago that ACT UP/SF scandalized the queer community in what has become one of the most audacious and outrageous actions in the history of the AIDS movement. I am speaking, of course, about the notorious "kraze kat zap" directed at Pat Christen on the night of Oct. 17, 1996. In the ensuing year, much criticism has been leveled at ACT UP/SF for their tactics. Nonetheless, Pat Christen has proven herself a worthy target. Her ever-expanding salary, racist heterosexist corporate elitism, lies and power plays continue to gnaw at the community, inviting resentment, anger and demands for her dismissal as executive director of SFAF. Most recently, the dismissal of Michael Petrelis from client services has added fuel to the fire. Even her most mainstream supporters have concluded it is time for her to step down. True to form, Christen continues to hide behind a p.c. smoke-screen, dismissing her detractors as "boring, predictable and tiresome" misogynists. She should stop discrediting feminism with her own brand of corporate mendacity. At the end of the second decade of AIDS, AIDS activism has degenerated into AIDS Inc., complete with CEOs, Corrupt, power-hungry, greedy, insensitive to the needs of PWAs, she should have been sent packing a long time ago, but don't expect the ever-tenacious Pat Christen to step down without a fight. The time is coming when we will gather at 18th and Castro and march to 10 U.N. Plaza and demand the dismissal of Pat Christen and her entire oligarchy of corporate welfare cheats. And make no mistake, ACT UP/SF will be there leading that march.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Sex at the core

Dana Van Gorder, reported coordinator of gay and lesbian health services for the San Francisco Office of AIDS, was quoted in the *Examiner* in an article on the very subject of penises in public as saying in part that "sexuality is at the core of gay male identity." That delimiting assertion, which straights and certain gays seem to treasure, gives me the hives. By using the gay word, it is suggested that sexuality is not at the core of straight male identity. For godsake, let's get real! Sexuality is at the core of every male's identity: gay, straight, or still in doubt. Always has been, always will be.

William Carey
San Francisco

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Harvey would be anti-censorship

The times they have a-changed indeed, and as far as censorship is concerned, in the wrong direction. Throughout the country the extremist right has been active in homophobic campaigns. We are already experiencing Salem witch-hunt-style hysteria in this country on sexual issues, with reactionaries using children as an excuse to propound their censorship views. If one wants to see exploitation of children, one can turn on a TV set any night and watch five- or seven-year-olds touting the benefits of some (not always harmless) commercial product. That sort of thing is demeaning to children, not the chance that they might accidentally see a poster or a penis doll (hard or not) in a Castro shop window.

All the more reason, then, for gay men and lesbians to show total solidarity with the two stores being attacked. Those protesting the actions of *A Different Light* and *Does Your Father Know?* should come out of the closet instead of hiding behind anonymous phone calls. Do all of them live in the Castro, anyway? Some of the calls could be coming from Lynchburg, Virginia as far as we know.

Harvey Milk, whose namesake school has been brought into this controversy, was a strong opponent of censorship. When I published *Gay Sunshine Journal* in San Francisco in the '70s, he was most encouraging and supportive of my efforts, even to the point of placing ads for his camera store in what was essentially a non-commercial publication. And the sexual images I printed were much more gay-lib blatant than the mild poster of cute-cock boy Aiden Shaw which the new puritans now want pulled. I know for sure where Harvey would stand on this issue: in full solidarity with the two stores being vilified.

Attitudes of "nudity is dirty" should have been blown away in the wind (to paraphrase Bob Dylan) long ago. That they are still around is sad. As a San Francisco gay book publisher for 20-odd years, the first amendment rights of free speech are my lifeblood. I applaud and totally support *A Different Light* and *Does Your Father Know?* for their anti-censorship stance. Their critics need to do more than a little self-examination and see the internalized homophobia that is still lurking within them.

Winston Leyland
Publisher, *Gay Sunshine Press*
San Francisco

R-rated neighborhood

Re the "dick flap": Let's just admit it. Over the last 20 years, the Castro has gone from a hotbed of sexual revolution to a plastic, de-sexed tourist trap. Now they want to lock up the Billy dolls. No wonder the younger gay generation looks elsewhere for their fun. Who needs another tired, tacky mall? Acceptance by the mainstream means assimilation into the boring straight culture. Be careful what you ask for, 'cause you just might get it.

The *Castro Star* newspaper recently asked random people in the neighborhood if they thought that residents should be informed of any registered sex offenders living nearby. Here's what one person (by the name of Sharon Ko) had to say: "Yes, I do. I feel that the children of the Castro should be protected. Parents should be notified about such a danger. They could then circulate a petition to have the child molester removed from the community. After the jail sentence is served, they should only be allowed to live in remote areas where there are no children."

A suggestion: the Castro is still an "R-rated" neighborhood. Take your children elsewhere, along with your torches and pitchforks. There are plenty of vanilla neighborhoods where simply being out will get you jail time. Let us have at least one place that's different.

John Wilson
San Francisco

The naked truth

Censorship hits the Castro means that again the movement for homosexual rights leads the culture. Fear and shame about our bodies is rife in America. Sex is still a major taboo. Some gays and lesbians, proud of their bodies, present them for all to see. That is healthy and good. Of course, the anxious will protest. The naked truth is hard for most Americans to bear. Moving past fear and taboo is another gift homosexuals give to all of us.

Robert Warren Cromey
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

Fran fan

Last week's cover story, "Penis flap grows larger," can be best summed up by a comment made by author Fran Lebowitz. When asked about the sanitation of Times Square in New York by the likes of Disney, Ms. Lebowitz said, "Why should Times Square be acceptable for children? They already have the rest of the country."

Allen Young
San Francisco

Teetering on the brink of adulthood

Over on this side of the continent, the local debate is over display of the Confederate flag. North of us, the arguments are about 42nd Street in NYC – whether or not the "Disneyfication" of the street robs it of its soul. The arguments between the sides on these issues are similar to the debate over the Castro, and, in many ways (I think) are part of a much larger debate, however unstated, about the kind of nation we are creating.

Ten years ago, I'd have been passionate on behalf of the principles of free expression, and viscerally, my gut is on that team. That means, if I'm honest, that I have to defend the display of the Confederate flag as vigorously as I defend the display of penises (which is pretty weird, if you think about it – frankly, I don't care much for penises and I loathe the Confederate flag).

It isn't ten years ago, though – it's now, and I'm the person I am rather than the person I was. My fascination with the rights of individuals has waned as I've watched those rights paralyze and polarize an otherwise fairly decent nation – I'm sick to death of the whining of all those individuals, including me. As a nation, we are teetering on the brink of adulthood, and it's about time – the bitching of adolescent nations is tedious, and destructive, in the extreme.

I think the solutions can be found in civility, something absent from American public, and private, life. The owners of the Castro shops are right, in principle – they are in the position, therefore, to be magnanimous – the same is true of the Confederate flag guys. The magnanimous thing for the "victors" to do is to address the concerns of their opponents and make gracious concessions – everybody wins.

Several people from both sides of the flag issue have suggested this: OK, you win. You have a right to display the flag. Now, you can decide *not* to display the flag as a demonstration of civility – an acknowledgment that, however righteous the display might be, it offends some people – some are deeply offended. Compromise. Display your flag at home and in your car, but keep it off public buildings and state-issued license plates. Everybody wins.

The public debate over these things is important and useful, but in the end, it will come down to the behavior of a few – they then become part of the larger cultural ripples that are generated by these kinds of debate.

Those few people can set the tone for the whole by simply behaving as intelligent, thoughtful adults. In the case of *Does Your Father Know*, the owner, having won in principle, could, magnanimously, put the banner up for the kids. Everybody wins, and the principled side gets lots of decency points for putting people first. The teacher and students can write the store a public thank you note and everybody will feel as though they count in the big picture.

Debate is fine, but eventually, action *will* speak louder than words. For a change, I'd like to see the action be civil.

Judith Curtis-Mardon
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Cock as commodity

The current debate about the depiction of sexual behaviors and activities, including erect penises in public spaces, presents a number of challenges to the gay community, and the Castro in particular.

First, I have no problem with nudity or any type of consensual sexuality. It pleases me to see children at the nude beaches I frequent, because it demonstrates that there is nothing shameful about our bodies. I admire the open-minded parents who choose to raise their children without shame or fear of their own or others' bodies. But I think it is crucial we recognize that sexuality is something different. It develops as a child grows into adolescence. In my experience working with abused children, I have seen the consequences of introducing children to sexual imagery before it can be fully integrated. Children who sexually assault other children have often learned this behavior from exposure to adult materials. They do not understand what it is that they are doing. I don't think that as a community we want to contribute to this loss of innocence by exposing our children to inappropriate materials.

In addition, another challenge that this issue raises is not new to our community. It is that of the importance of surface appearances. We've heard complaints for years about how the "big pecs and washboard abs" stereotype alienates more members of our community and results in self-image and self-esteem problems for many. Now we have foot-long cocks to reinforce that we don't measure up.

Lastly, I'd like to address the commercial issue here. Haven't we learned anything from our sisters' struggle against objectification? Should we let our own businesses and organizations use our bodies to sell things? These are not safe sex posters we're talking about. These images are placed in windows for the purpose of making money. Personally, I do not want my cock to become another commodity.

Stuart Dick
San Francisco

POLITICS

Bay Area Browns

by Wayne Friday

It has been nearly 20 years (1978) since former Governor Edmund G. ("Jerry") Brown Jr. won an election, but he has never stopped running. In his unusual political career, Brown has been California's secretary of state and governor (twice), has run for the U.S. Senate (and lost), tried on three occasions to become president, and now is running for mayor of Oakland (population: 380,000).

Finally, after two decades, he once again looks like a winner. Make no mistake (and snicker though you may — others certainly are), Jerry Brown, barring a political catastrophe, will be elected mayor of Oaktown next year. While it isn't that likely he will get the necessary 50+ percent next June to avoid a November runoff, this guy — warts, jokes, quirks,

and all — is a celebrity, albeit a controversial one. What the City in the Shadows needs is someone like Brown, who has in the one short week since announcing his candidacy put this troubled East Bay burg back on the map.

You can bet the farm on this: Oakland will take to Jerry Brown's mayoral campaign like a duck to water. Assuming Brown can keep focused at least until next June, the Bay Area should then have two Mayor Browns, no doubt trying each and every day to one-up the other.

Oh sure, I — and just about everyone else — have poked fun at Jerry Brown in the past, and the "Moonbeam" factor will likely always remain part of his baggage. However, don't take the former guv too lightly; the guy is damned smart and just what Oakland requires for a long overdue makeover. Yes, "Jer" will probably be elected mayor, and after the dull and desperate years of **Elihu Harris**, he may just be what the doctor ordered to help cure Oakland's ills.

As for San Francisco's own Mayor Brown — just what is happening to hiszanner's public relations machine? The *Examiner* (the paper that Da Mayor wouldn't use to wipe his rear end with) took **Willie Brown** on big time Sunday in an editorial accusing His Williness of having a "trash mouth" that seems to delight in belittling anyone who disagrees with him. The *Ex*, obviously still smarting from the toilet paper remark, points out that since becoming mayor two years ago, Brown has referred to the Board of Supes as "pantywaists" and "mistresses" (some I know would

call them worse). He's also called a certain gay BART director a "jerk," popular political columnist **Phil Matier** "stupid," and not-so-popular City Hall reporter **Barbara Taylor** "full of shit."

Pointing out that former Mayors **Dianne Feinstein**, **Frank Jordan**, **George Moscone**, et al. had more of a civil tongue when speaking of others, the *Ex* opines that "for offensive language, Brown is in a class of one." Maybe.

Perhaps it's just that the "Willie Brown Show" is beginning to wear a bit thin. One supervisor who supported his election told me last week that "this guy is becoming a real disappointment." Another longtime Brown ally complained recently that "Willie made an entire campaign out of dissing Frank Jordan's homeless program. But have you seen the streets any worse than they are now? I mean, can't we at least pretend there is another Mayor's Conference coming so that we can hide the homeless on Market Street again?"

Should the mayor's spin doctors be worried about Brown's infamous "trash mouth"? Or is it indeed "just the way Willie is, just his sense of humor?"

I think Brown has been a pretty good mayor, even though I didn't vote for him. He's smart (a hell of a lot smarter than most politicos I know), can twist arms with the very best of them, has total control over those supe "pantywaists" (did I say that?), and in his imitable style, runs San Francisco with an iron fist. Does the guy have an overinflated ego? To be sure. Does he indeed have a "trash mouth" unbecoming a mayor of this world-class city? Like most things, it depends on whom you ask.

Reprehensible Riggs

Former First Congressional District Democratic candidate **Michela Alioto** is not running again for Congress. She's jumped into the secretary of state fray instead, where she will face openly gay former Secretary of State **Tony Miller** in next June's Democratic primary. Demos now feel they have a real chance of unseating Rep. **Frank Riggs** (R) in that Northern California district next year with popular state Senator **Mike Thompson**.

Incidentally, it was the conservative Riggs who stood on the House floor last week and defended the disgusting tactics of Humboldt County Sheriff **Dennis Lewis** and Eureka Police Chief **Arnie Millsap** in allowing their rogue officers to dab pepper spray

into the eyes of peaceful demonstrators. Those same demonstrators just happened to be sitting in Riggs' office protesting the destruction of ancient redwood trees when the incident, which was videotaped, occurred.

Congrats are certainly in order for local gay rights activist and longtime philanthropist **Jim Hormel**. His nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg (that's a small, affluent European country bounded by West Germany, Belgium, and France, in case you're wondering) seems to be sailing through confirmation hearings in the U.S. Senate. Jim Hormel is a wonderful man who should inspire pride in all of us.

Even his close friends are said not to be taking state Senator **John Vasconcellos**'s "expiratory" campaign for governor seriously.

Meet the Press moderator **Tim Russert** will address the Commonwealth Club next Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Hyatt Regency. Call 597-6705 for info and reservations.

In the Netherlands, a proposal that appears destined to become law early next year would allow Dutch homosexuals to adopt children and would sanction same-sex marriages. The legislation would give same-sex couples the same pension, inheritance, and social security rights as married heterosexuals.

According to those who hang out at City Hall, the race to become the next president of the Board of Supes in 1998 will be between **Tom Ammiano**, **Mabel Teng**, and maybe **Gavin Newsom**. The funny man is the early favorite.

Susan Leal will make a good city treasurer. A prominent lesbian surprised me Saturday night by claiming that she "couldn't vote for Susan because she stabbed Frank Jordan in the back" by supporting Brown for mayor. To her, I would say that, yes, Jordan gave Leal her first City Hall job when he appointed her supervisor. However, in the harsh world of politics, we all know that that virtue known as loyalty often goes through many unexpected twists and turns (just ask Dianne Feinstein about **Louise Renne** sometime). Besides, Leal was the only one really qualified for that post.

The Quote of the Week, sent to me by a reader, is from Vice President **Al Gore**'s speech a few weeks ago at a D.C. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reception: "It's not enough for you to have a seat at the table. Everybody's got to realize that as full members of the American family, it's your table, too." Since his early days in Congress, the veep has always been a quiet, effective advocate for gays and lesbians, and we have no reason to expect any less from a Gore presidency. ▶

**Our Man Friday**

earthtones

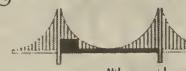


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by Beth Elliott

Whoa! I Feel Good! Dept.: This week, quelle surprise, I have positive things to crow about happily ... before getting down to the business of whipsawing the clue-challenged with an evil grin on my face!

Seriously, I like having happy things to celebrate ... like the splendid job Radhika and posse have done with the Driftwood Lounge since taking over from our dearly departed Roller Derby stars. Lovely glass frieze in their honor over the bar; real classy jernit they got there. "Where are all the women's bars in San Francisco?" Um, Hayward?

More props, this time to queer movie maven Jenni Olson and her Popcorn Q video site at <http://www.planetout.com/pno/popcorn/> outnow!. It's hard enough finding a copy of my all-time favorite movie, *Celine and Julie Go Boating*, to rent, much less to purchase for one's very own (sigh!). So in Jenni's direction, allow me to kowtow with fervor. (Offline, contact TLA Video, 1520 Locust St., #200 in Philly 19102 or 800-333-8521.)

Celine and Julie Go Boating is not a lesbian flick per se, but the two title characters' paths cross in Paris, and their lives gradually intertwine to the point that they stand in for each other at critical moments. About the time they've interfered with each other's business enough, they get caught up in exploring, under the influence

of psychedelic sweets, a haunted mansion whose inhabitants may or may not be reliving a murder mystery over and over again. Major female bonding, French *nouvelle vague* surrealism. Yo Beth sez, check it out (and I may have to host a Cyberdykes movie night just for that very purpose).

More sighs and skipped heartbeats: those would be over mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirschlaguer, making a career (and breaking more hearts than just mine, I'm sure!) of "trouser" roles like Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* and Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Dig it: she portrays love-struck (and horny) young noblemen who end up getting disguised as maidservants to protect them from infuriated husbands. Such presence

as a boy, and such funny floundering about in drag squared. She got to do much more of that floundering in *Rosenkavalier* at the Seattle Opera, for which I happened to be in town this summer before taking off camping in British Columbia. What a dreamboat!

Ah, there are times when there's a real bliss to being a lesbian, thrilling to the ways and reasons your little female heart goes pitty-pat, knowing the bliss of major female bonding, etc., etc. And then there are times the bliss is spoiled by the knowledge that the very same lesbianism sometimes gets you surrounded by

people in serious need of a life. For example ...

Ya know, I've seen those Ken-type dolls skillfully retrofitted to sport a hunka hunka burning love in full parade undress and standing at attention. I think they're a hoot. Of course, the dungeons full of more anatomically correct Barbie-type dolls my old lover and her partner concoct, complete with to-scale sex toys, are more my speed. However, you get the general idea: I think adult toys for grown-ups can be fun ... and funny.

As far as displaying them in shop windows where people who might not like having dolly genitals waved in their faces goes ... Well, it's just kind of rude and tacky, eh? And

I didn't see the poster that got Band-aided in that bookstore window on Castro Street, but something about the brouhaha it stirred up (*Brouhaha? Ha ha ha!*) tells me we ain't exactly talkin' Michelangelo's David here.

What gets me is said brouhaha: specifically, I cringed to see not only this paper but the dailies reporting that a simple request to take it inside – if just for the duration of a children's Halloween parade – set off a heated debate about the safety and preservation of "our" culture, identity and sexuality (I make the bunny ears of irony here as a homosexual person not particularly enamored of penises). Children, please! I'm not talking about the Harvey Milk Academy students, but anyone who actually thought this was some earth-shaking event over which lines needed to be drawn and alarms sounded.

This tempest in a teapot has been portrayed as a critical battleground in a war between gay freedom and homophobic repression, when to many of us lesbians and gays it's just one more public tizzy that makes us look like idiots to the rest of the world. I mean, what's the heterosexual equivalent of having to show off one's sexuality (not orientation – one's readiness, willingness, and eagerness ... and desperate hopefulness) to have a sense of self and a social identity? How about ... that Playboy bunny decal on the bumper of a car whose horn plays "La Cucaracha"? Those chrome reclining female figurines on the mudflaps of the semi?

(Speaking of which, butch women don't do it for me, but I'd really, really, really love to see one of those chrome reclining female figurines with the outline of her hair in a crewcut. I'd almost pay good money to see that out on the road!)

I'm sorry (and I say that especially to those folks I respect who are climbing on this bandwagon), but I don't see a simple request to act like grown-ups, and save for consenting adults those displays of tingling, engorged naughty parts, as any kind of "sex panic" – or threat to anyone's freedom. Far too much is being made of the fact that some gay men are wondering whether there's more to life than living to get laid ... whether making mass quantities of sexual encounters their *summum bonum* (pun not intended) is having a detrimental affect on their ability to achieve intimacy ... whether it has anything to do with the inability to get new HIV infections in the community down to zero. Those aren't reasonable questions! ▼

ONLINE

Gay icons online

by Heather Shirkey

Deep in the endless abyss that we call the Web lie some secret shrines, tucked away like those decade-old spider webs lurking quietly under your bed. Shadowed in online obscurity are sites honoring has-been gay iconic celebs, pages questioning the closeted lifestyles of the currently famous, and pages of screen and music legends whom we just cannot release from our ever-obsessive grasp. Geek Grrrl has chosen a few favorites that are intriguing just because they exist.

One of the first blasts from the past that Geek Grrrl stumbled upon was the "Patty Duke Fan Page" (<http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/1368>). No, this site is not based on Patty's adult life, but focuses on her childhood stardom. Many of you will remember Patty Duke as "TV's Teen Star." Now she lives on for time immemorial in the cyberspace. The site even comes complete with dreamy music that sounds like it is straight out of Mister Rogers' Land of Make-Believe. Once you're here in Patty's teen years, don't expect to get very far. What you see is what you get! Stop by to ponder the randomness of it all, or head over to the official Patty Duke homepage. (<http://www.pattyduke.net>)

While we're on the topic of survivors, there is one woman most of us would be absolutely nowhere without. Gloria Gaynor, the voice behind the gay national anthem, "I Will Survive," has now taken the struggle to cyberspace. Visit the "Gloria Gaynor Interview" (<http://www.soon.org.uk/page32.htm>), a recent discussion with Gloria about what path her life has taken in recent years. Also, visit the new and updated lyrics that Gloria has added to her ever-popular disco hit. I'll give you a clue: Gloria is now a Christian and the new lyrics are too! As the article mentions, "A lot has happened in seventeen years."

While we're on the musical track, there's a great little site that has the best of intentions but could definitely use some growth and expansion. "The Girls Group Fan Club" (<http://members.tripod.com/~ggfc>) is a site that honors female singers and groups from the '60s and '70s. They have their own newsletter, you can join the fan club, and you can order your fan club T-Shirt while you are there. However, the best part is, this site links back to the "Patty Duke Fan Page."

Let's transition back to this decade, though. Patty and Gloria may be superstars in their own right, but what about the current Hollywood in-crowd? In some cases, we seem to be completely obsessed with their sexual orientation. This, of course, carries through in the online community. One site crawling up from the pits of celebrity sexuality gossip is the "Is He/She Gay? Page" (<http://www.toobad.com/gay.html>). This page, as it proudly states, is "the only page dedicated to conjecture about the sexuality of famous people." Be sure to check the input given by the "industry insiders." Which stars do you think are gay?

Of course, there are sites not only dedicated to stars, but to en-

tire television series and their story lines. It is easy for anyone to discover hundreds of *Star Trek* or *Ellen* sites on the topic. Any search engine will guide you there. Geek Grrrl stumbled upon one of the most recent fan anomalies, though, dedicated to *The X-Files*. In fact, not only is it dedicated to *The X-Files*, but it has become a queer script-writing dream site. "Queer XI - The Index of Gay-Themed X-Files Fan Fiction" (<http://www.mbay.net/~thea/queerxf/index.html>) allows fans to weave their own queer-oriented stories with *The X-Files* characters and then post the stories to the Web site for others to enjoy. You've never seen Mulder and Scully quite like this! ▼

Link to the sites mentioned in today's article from Geek Grrrl's Web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar>.



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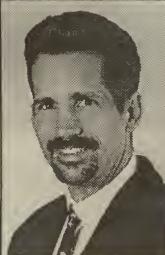
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ABC needs to embrace Ellen

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

Following two weeks of on-again, off-again parental advisory warnings, ABC reintroduced the warning for the October 29 episode of *Ellen*, and added insult to injury by badly dubbing over one phrase in a botched attempt to de-sex the show. The episode, which had been comically promoted by Ellen DeGeneres herself as "Ellen Kisses A Girl and Makes the Network Very Nervous," deals with Ellen's first date. During a conversation at a loud disco, Ellen tries to explain that she remembered it as a quiet bar. Her date can't hear her over the music. Ellen says, "I want to take you like a wild animal," thinking that her date can't hear her. The line dubbed over from the episode was in response to this, when the pair reached a quiet bar.

Her date originally said, "I thought you wanted to take me like a wild animal."

After the garbled dubbing, she said, "Besides, I've never dated a wild animal."

When the parental advisory first appeared, Ellen DeGeneres, GLAAD and others condemned the warning as a double standard, maintaining that similar displays of same-sex affection on other television shows and vastly more explicit ones between heterosexual couples have not warranted a special advisory. Ellen is one of ABC's top-rated shows in a season of new programming which is floundering for the network. According to Nielsen, it has become one of the top 20 shows, and yet ABC is treating it as if the program is its dirty little secret. ABC's approach to the show seems schizophrenic:

On one hand, it is profiting off the controversy surrounding the show and the strong audience share *Ellen* garners, due to its consistently high quality, clever writing, and innovative storylines. On the other, ABC is trying to play it safe by hampering its own groundbreaking program with double-standard advisories and last-minute script switcheroos. As GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry noted earlier this week, the network is telling people that "dating and affection between members of the same sex is somehow akin to graphic sex, guns, and gore, and so requires extreme warning labels and special circumstances. In the past, ABC has shown coverage and backbone for supporting *Ellen*. Now, it's time to follow through on commitment to fairness and drop the double standard. *Ellen* is a show all of

America, including ABC, can be proud of."

Tell ABC their efforts to create this history-making show are commendable, but enough is enough — dump the double standard and embrace the show in all its diversity.

Contact:

• Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90037, phone: 310.557.7777 (ask to be connected to the Audience Information Line), fax: 310.557.7679, e-mail: abcadr@ccabc.com

• Michael Eisner, Chairman and Dean Valentine, President of Network TV and Television Animation, The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521, fax: 818.560.1930, e-mail (via website): http://www.disney.com/Mail

Trans-stupid turn at Union Square

On the Halloween (October 30) episode of *Union Square*, a new NBC show by *Caroline in the City* creator Fred Barron and Marco Pennette revolving around people who frequent a New York coffee shop, what could have potentially been an enlightening and humorous show on transgender issues devolved into a series of jokes leaving the transgender character as the butt of the joke. In the episode, a man dressed as a disheveled woman enters the coffee shop. *Union Square* regular Gabriella Diaz (Constance Marie) begins to talk to the new customer and finds out that he is dressed that way as a dare by his friends for Halloween. As they talk more, they both begin to find out that they have many things in common and decide to see each other again the next day. When they do meet again, Gabriella, much to her chagrin, finds that her date is still dressed as a woman. She reminds him that it isn't Halloween anymore and that she thought he was embarrassed last night because his friends dared him to dress up. He says, "Yes, as a floozy! This is the way I normally dress." Finally, when she asks why he is interested in her when he is gay, eavesdropping waitress Carrie (Christine Burke) tells her, "He's a cross-dresser. He's not gay, he just likes to dress in women's clothing." Gabriella's date thanks Carrie for clarifying and says, "See, it's all perfectly normal." Unfortunately, Carrie retorts, "Well, I didn't say that."

From there the show turns from what could have been an educational show about transgender issues into cheap transphobic humor. Gabriella tries to over-

come her fear of her dream date being a crossdresser, but every time her date turns around, she makes off-hand comments about him that provoke the audience to laughter. In the end, she tries to leave the restaurant with him, but after someone cat-calls to him, she runs back in the restaurant, screaming, "I can't do it." While the transgender character was a confident and proud person who is comfortable dressing in women's clothes, he is, in the end, the butt of the joke, and Gabriella is the one with whom the viewers are intended to empathize.

Please let Fred Barron and Marco Pennette know they were on the right track with such a confident and comfortable transgender character, but in the future, should make that an opportunity to use humor to educate that transgender people are people, not props for cheap laughs.

Contact: Fred Barron and Marco Pennette, Executive Producers, *Union Square*, NBC Studios, 330 Bob Hope Drive, Burbank, CA 91523, e-mail: *Union-Square@nbc.com*.

Lifetime paints Intimate Portrait of Love

On October 22, Lifetime Television premiered a profile on openly lesbian breast cancer advocate Dr. Susan Love as part of its *Intimate Portraits* series. It tells the story of how Dr. Love, "the most famous breast cancer surgeon in America," initially resisted being a breast surgeon, fearing she was being pigeonholed into women's medicine. When she realized how little information women were receiving, however, "what started out as a career became a mission," and she has become a tireless advocate for increased awareness, access to health care and political action relating to breast cancer and women's health issues. In telling Dr. Love's story, Lifetime fully incorporates her family, from her father and brother discussing how they reacted when she first came out to them as lesbian and grew to embrace her sexual orientation, to her longtime partner and child.

Without sensationalizing her sexual orientation, Lifetime truly provides an intimate portrait of Dr. Love by integrating her identity as a lesbian into the many other facets of her life. The program serves as a model for how to do a biography of someone who happens to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Please let Lifetime know that it is affirming to see someone as important as Dr. Susan Love profiled in such an in-depth and sensitive way.

Contact: Dawn Tarnofsky, Programming Senior Vice President, Lifetime, 309 West 49th St., New York, NY 10019, fax: 212.957.4264. ▼

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er took her place."

It's not just for her lesbian love affairs, though, but for her remarkable writing career that Flanner deserves attention. At a time when middle-class women's jobs were confined mostly to homemaking, nursing, or teaching, Flanner forged a successful and noteworthy career as a foreign correspondent. Her literary connections in Paris got her a number of plum writing assignments,

and in 1925, the editor of the newly-founded *New Yorker* magazine approached her about doing a biweekly column on French culture and politics. Her "Letter from Paris," written under the androgynous pseudonym "Genet" (a twist on the French pronunciation of "Janet"), ran in the magazine for 50 years and earned Flanner worldwide fame.

In the column, she tackled everything from tame subjects, like art exhibitions and the theater season, to explosively political ones, like the rise of French fascism. Her left-of-center work won many prestigious honors, including the *Legion d'Honneur* and the National Book Award. *Paris Was Yesterday*, a book-length collection of her columns, was an international best-seller. When Flanner died on November 7, 1978, her fans around the world mourned her passing.

Why isn't she better known as one of "our people"? Though open about her lesbianism with friends and colleagues, Flanner didn't discuss - and wasn't asked about - her personal life on the record. Not unlike many of today's semi-closeted dykes, Flanner seemed to think that everyone knew she was a lesbian without her having to announce it. As she wrote in a letter to a 1940s lover of hers, "Darlinghissima, how we burned and so publicly." More publicly than most 1940s lesbians, sure, but hardly "out" by our standards. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com.

gay.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lesbians honored for courage, action by Women's Building

by Cynthia Laird

They are women of courage and women of action; they are also lesbians of color. On Wednesday, October 29, nearly 300 people, most of them women, along with some men, turned out to help recognize the three community leaders and the one place that means so much to them — the Women's Building, birthplace to countless women's community projects since 1979. The honorees were Dr. Sandra Hernandez, the city's former health director, and currently director of the San Francisco Foundation; Martha Jimenez, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF); and nationally known poet Jewelle Gomez.

supporters, along with Women's Building staff, board members, and volunteers, were assured by Mayor Willie Brown that the construction project will go forward. "It is a place that exudes democracy," said Brown. "I am delighted that the seismic upgrading will be completed on my watch as mayor. The building has become a symbol, the building contains lots and lots of talent." ▼

Hernandez, in remarks after she accepted her award from Assemblywoman Carole Migden, pointed out one glaring truth. "What is really outrageous to me is that study after study in the Mission has shown every 150 yards there is a bar; and alcohol seems to be at the core of a lot of different things, domestic violence, substance abuse," she said.



The family Jewelle: Acclaimed novelist Dorothy Allison (right) presents writer Jewelle Gomez with her award.

The Women's Building is currently in the midst of a legal fight with the Dovre Club, the popular Irish bar located inside the building that's been without a lease since 1989. Because the Women's Building has been designated a Level I seismic risk, it must be retrofitted to bring it up to code or it will be closed. For completion of the seismic work, the Dovre Club must leave but has refused to do so, forcing an eviction trial. After numerous delays in getting to court, when the case finally got before a judge, a mistrial was declared.

Against this backdrop, the Women's Building is moving ahead with its "Reinforce the Dream" campaign to renovate the site. Esperanza Macias, executive director, said that to date, \$4.1 million has been raised. When the two-year construction project is completed, there will be a licensed child care center, classrooms for afterschool programs, and other amenities — but no Dovre Club.

Macias said the Women's Building defies any attempt to label it, services are provided annually to over 50,000 women, children, and men of all ages, races, and cultures. "Straight women and lesbians share space, immigrant women and women with AIDS share space, men and women, gay and straight. It defies all odds," said Macias.

'A bar every 150 yards'

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ship in poetry. "We are not easy," said Gomez. "I'm a storyteller, that's what I do."

She is the author of the novel *The Gilda Stories*, which received two Lambda Literary Awards for fiction and science fiction, and also wrote collections of poetry, including *The Lipstick Papers*, *Flamingoes and Bears*, and *Oral Tradition*. ▼

For information about events at the Women's Building and the Reinforce the Dream campaign, call (415) 431-1180.



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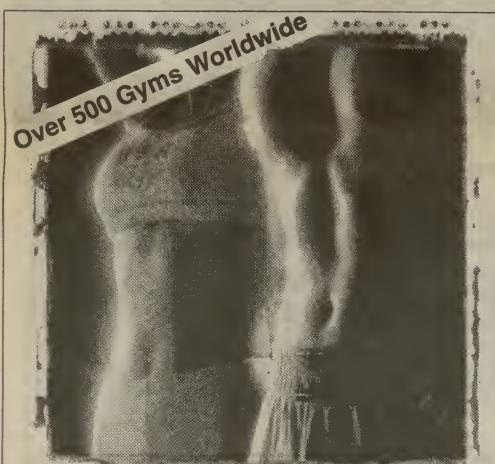
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Puckett charged with murder of gay man

by Dennis Conkin

A 17-year-old Atascadero, California youth was formally charged on Monday, October 27 with the murder of a gay San Francisco man during an altercation in Orinda last August.

Joshua Puckett was charged with the murder of Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov, a 29-year-old Russian émigré, several hours after the pair left the popular San Francisco dance club Club Universe, on August 31.

Puckett will be brought to Contra Costa County to face trial after he is sentenced to a five-year state prison sentence in connection with an unrelated robbery, according to Contra Costa County Assistant District Attorney Barry Grove.

Puckett was tried as an adult on the robbery charge, and must stand trial as an adult on the murder charge. The robbery conviction netted the youth a strike under California's three strikes law. He faces 25 years to life in state prison if convicted of Poliakov's murder.

Puckett has confessed to killing Poliakov, but claims he acted in self-defense when he woke up after a night of drinking and drugging to find Poliakov unbuttoning his pants.

Authorities do not believe the sexual assault claim, Grove told the Bay Area Reporter.

"He is being charged with murder because he unlawfully

killed Vitaly Poliakov without excuse or justification," Grove said.

He said that the physical evidence in the case "is inconsistent" with Puckett's sexual assault claim.

"This is somebody who's very manipulative and using the victim's homosexuality as an excuse for murder," Grove said.

Mardy Kisner, 23, was arraigned on charges of being an accessory to murder after the fact, and two counts of grand theft in connection with Poliakov's murder.

Investigators say Kisner is the accomplice who helped Puckett put Poliakov's body into the back seat of the victim's 1997 Mercedes, drove 240 miles to Atascadero, and dumped the body into Paloma Creek behind Atascadero State Hospital. Poliakov's body went undiscovered for nearly two weeks until a work crew found it on September 12. He had been reported missing by his ex-wife on September 4.

Kisner is also charged with using credit cards from the home of Azra Koshef, where Puckett allegedly bludgeoned Poliakov to death with a cider bottle.

Kisner faces an estimated four years in state prison in connection with the crimes, according to Grove.

Posed on a motorcycle

Described as a slender, quiet and non-aggressive individual who used cocaine and crystal

methedrine recreationally, the murder victim frequented The Cafe and other popular gay venues such as Club Universe.

Poliakov operated an import-export business dealing in computer equipment, antiques, and other goods. In recent weeks before his death, the victim had begun living on his 28-foot boat in Oyster Bay, and had told friends that he and Puckett were boyfriends, even showing friends a black-and-white photo of the youth posed on a motorcycle. According to an interview Puckett gave KGO-TV producer Ed Walsh, the youth states he is heterosexual and denies any consensual sexual involvement with the murder victim.

Shortly before Poliakov met Puckett, a Latvian man whom he had earlier been romantically involved with had left the country and planned to return and rejoin Poliakov, but was not allowed re-entry by U.S. Customs officials.

According to news reports, Puckett moved to the Bay Area after he finished a jail sentence for robbery in San Luis Obispo County.

Puckett had worked briefly at several Castro area restaurants, including Pozole's and Paolo's Juice Bar, frequented the Cafe Flore, and had attempted to start a modeling career after his arrival in the Bay Area. He appears on the cover of the December issue of XY magazine, a glossy youth-oriented national gay publication. ▼

NGLTF's Creating Change to begin in San Diego Wednesday

by Liz Highleyman

The tenth annual Creating Change Conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), will be held next week, November 12-16, in San Diego. Creating Change is a conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered activists and organizers.

The conference will consist of day-long institutes, plenary talks, a wide array of workshops, an NGLTF membership meeting, and a brunch. The People of Color Institute and a session entitled "Race is the Issue" will take place on Wednesday, November 12. "Crossing Divides and Borders" (international organizing), the Youth Organizing Institute, a session on community centers, the Media Skills Institute, and "Leaders Are Made, Not Born" will take place Thursday, November 13.

Open workshop sessions will take place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Over 80 workshops and small group sessions will cover topics such as organizing against sodomy laws and in favor of

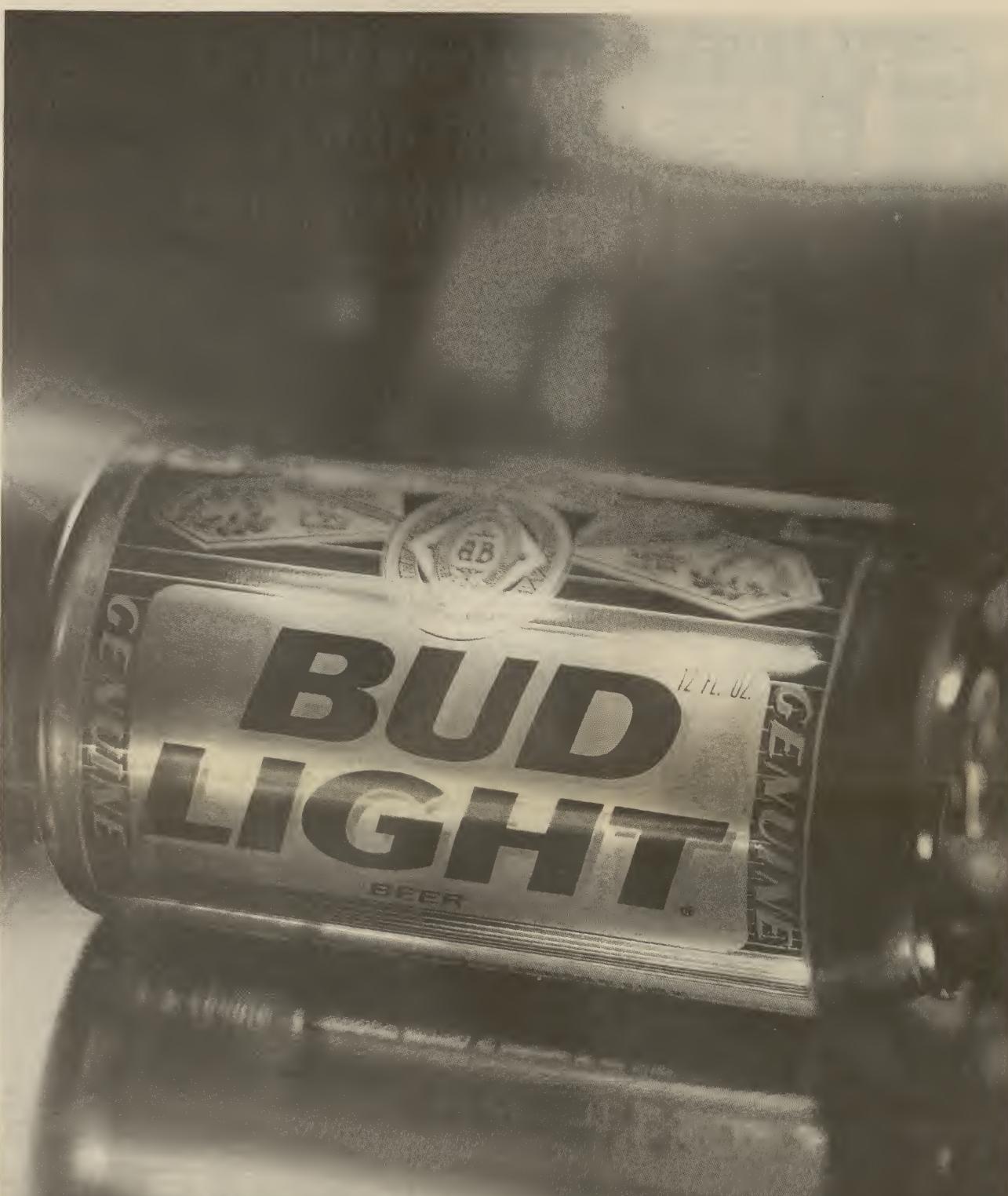
same-sex marriage, anti-violence, HIV/AIDS and health, rural organizing, gender identity issues, fundraising, public speaking, and youth, campus and workplace organizing. Some of the workshops will feature roundtable discussions with an array of LGBT movement leaders.

Keynote addresses will be given by Sheila James Kuehl, Speaker Pro Tem of the California Assembly, on Thursday evening; Martin Ornelas-Quintero, Executive Director of the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, on Friday; and Roland Sintos Coloma, a former NGLTF Youth Institute graduate and a Filipino bisexual public school teacher, on Saturday. Lesbian author Dorothy Allison will deliver the Vito Russo Lecture on Art and Politics at the closing brunch on Sunday. Special guest State Assemblywoman Carol Migden will also be present.

According to NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel, "Creating Change has been the political hothouse of our movement for the past ten years. It has been the incubator of countless projects, campaigns, strategies and initiatives that will help to bring our movement into the 21st century."

Creating Change has expanded its focus over the past years, and now includes programs for bisexuals and transgendered people as well as for gay men and lesbians. For the second year, the conference will feature a track of workshops for the leather/S/M community. A Sex Panic Summit will be held concurrently with Creating Change on November 13. In addition, a town hall meeting and several workshops will address this issue. Presenters will include Eric Rofes, Allan Berube, Dan Savage, Amber Hollibaugh, and Race Bannon. ▼

Creating Change will be held at the Holiday Inn on the Bay in downtown San Diego. For more information or to register, call NGLTF at (202) 332-6483 extension 3329, or visit the website at www.ngltf.org/c97. The Sex Panic Summit will take place at the Spruce Street Forum. For information call (619) 295-6067, or send e-mail to arcadio@ix.netcom.com.



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Quest to save Victorian gets ugly

'Big event' planned for this Monday

by Cynthia Laird

A San Francisco man's obsession with saving the Victorian building at the site of the planned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center has taken on nasty, personal tones; last week a man who knows Community Center Project board members found a message from Jim Siegel spewing anger and rage from his answering machine. Siegel's tirade attacked two local gay philanthropists and gloated about stopping a significant corporate donation to the center.

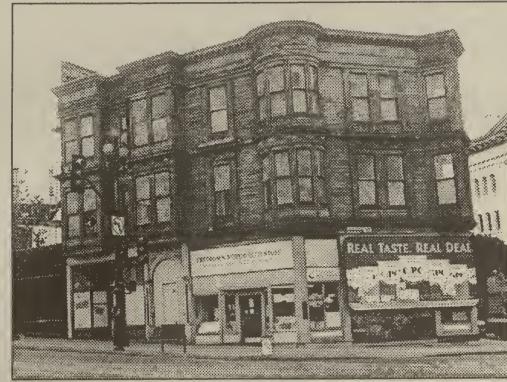
All may not be as Siegel would have people believe, however; on Tuesday, November 4, Scott Shafer of the CCP board told the B.A.R. that the corporate contribution will be made.

"The company still plans to make a significant contribution, and it will be announced at the November 14 dinner," Shafer said, adding the amount was "not \$500,000," as Siegel claims on the tape. Shafer declined to reveal the dollar amount.

The CCP board's unanimous decision in September to construct a completely new center does not sit well with Siegel, who belongs to "Friends of 1800 Market," a group that wants the dilapidated Victorian renovated, or with many others from six local neighborhood groups. Siegel told the B.A.R. that he was speaking for himself when he called his friend, and he knows his "in-your-face" tactics are not shared by everyone involved in saving the Victorian.

"I'm at war with the gay community center board ... I'm at war with the gay community," Siegel says to his friend on the tape, a copy of which was obtained by the B.A.R. "Your friend Mark Leno is a piece of shit as far as I'm concerned ... there's going to be pickets in front of Jim Hormel's house if he donates one fucking cent. We are disrupting their campaign."

The always-diplomatic Leno is taking the name-calling in stride; he appealed to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents to continue working together toward the common goal of a commun-



The building in question: the Fallon Building at 1800 Market at Octavia.

ty center at 1800 Market Street, at its intersection with Octavia.

"I think it behooves the entire community if we continue conversations in a respectful and rational manner, and some of the comments made to date do not reflect that," said Leno, co-chair of the center's capital campaign.

Major surprise

Siegel, a self-described millionaire and Haight Street business owner, said supporters went to the city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Commission Wednesday, November 5 in an attempt to get landmark status for the Victorian. He also said a "major surprise event" is planned to take place at the site this Monday, November 10. He declined to be more specific, but said three people are spending \$1,000 for the action. "We're going to get the city's attention," he said.

Sieger spoke out against Siegel, saying he and others previously expressed no interest whatsoever in the community center project. "He's like a deadbeat father," Shafra told the B.A.R., "who is coming back after 20 years and saying, 'I'm back.'"

Siegel said he did not become involved earlier in the process because initially, the CCP board stated that architectural plans called for the Fallon Building, as the Victorian is known, to be rehabilitated. "This is about quality

of life in San Francisco. This is not a gay issue. I'm a San Franciscan first, and a gay man second. I don't like what's happening here with chain stores and high-rises."

Architects Jane Cee and Peter Pfau joined with engineers and conducted a three-month feasibility study of the Victorian earlier this year. Their findings indicated that renovating the Victorian would increase the cost of the project by \$1.7 to \$2.6 million. Keeping the structure also dramatically decreased the amount of usable space by 25 percent. There would be no 400-seat auditorium, for example.

To complicate matters, the cost of building the 41,000-square-foot center increased by 30 percent over the original estimate, and now stands at \$9.5 million. That means the capital campaign committee increased its fundraising goal; it must now raise \$3.5 million, instead of \$2.5 million.

At the September 17 meeting to discuss the Victorian, about 40 people attended and the comments were basically split for and against saving the 103-year-old, three-story Victorian. The building has sat vacant for many years; drug dealers, users, and homeless people have squatted in the building over the years. Architect Jane Cee said the building's interior has been "thrashed," fireplaces have been destroyed, and other interior damage is significant. ▼

Community Center founders to be thanked at swank dinner gala next Friday

by Cynthia Laird

It's going to be a swank affair, thank you to the people who have donated or pledged at least \$1,000 to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center. The Founders' Dinner next Friday, November 14 at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero promises "some surprise performers and some performance surprises" courtesy of director Kile Ozier, who started the successful Acad-

emy of Friends parties in 1982.

Mark Leno, a Community Center Project board member and co-chair of the \$3.5 million capital campaign, said, "There will be no speeches!" Rather, Ozier has designed a dramatic evening, including very short readings taken from queer writings over the centuries.

The founders, and there are hundreds, will not have to pay for the evening, said Leno. "It's a tribute dinner for the founders." Founders can bring a guest for \$175, but there are a limited num-

ber of tickets available.

Leno said interested people can become founders by making the \$1,000 donation or pledge, which can be paid in monthly installments over three years. ▼

For information on becoming a founder, or attending the dinner as the guest of a founder, call (415) 864-8523. The evening begins with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m.

'Grand plan' seeks 50 lesbians to donate \$1,000 each to center

Challenge grant will match up to \$50K

by Cynthia Laird

"just want 50 women," said San Francisco lesbian Jody Cole as the people in the crowded room erupted into laughter. Her girlfriend, standing in the back of the room, was good-natured about the comment.

Cole made the comment at her Noe Valley home Sunday, October 26, when she and lesbian firefighters Karen Kerr and Jeanine Nicholson hosted a get-together to promote the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center to gay and lesbian firefighters. Cole made the humorous comment to promote her own challenge to the lesbian community: if 50 women sign on as founders and each donate \$1,000 before the end of November, Cole will match that with \$50,000 of her own money.

Since she first announced her \$50,000 challenge grant October 20 at the Asian Art Museum reception benefiting the Community Center Project (CCP), at least 33 women have pledged their support. At her home Sunday, two more women signed on, meaning she already has half of the women needed to meet her challenge.

Cole, co-chair of the CCP's \$3.5 million capital campaign, stressed that the \$1,000 founder pledges do not need to be paid at once. The CCP founders, men and women, can arrange to pay \$28 per month, which is charged to a person's credit card, over three years.

"I really want women in this community, women of all colors, to know this is their community center as well," Cole said, adding the \$50,000 will be "a bit of a stretch" for her. Nonetheless, the 35-year-old Cole, who describes herself as a "donor activist," has decided to make the leap, using funds she inherited following the death of her mother. "I've never made a gift of this sort before, but I want people to take this seriously. For me, I have relied on men giving money. We women have plenty of money."

She said she recently attended a gathering in Aspen, Colorado where the subject was gay and lesbian philanthropy. It was there that the idea of a challenge grant took hold. "I want other women to realize that by stretching a bit, they, too, can make a significant contribution to this extremely important project," said Cole. "There is a tremendous need in our community to have a place where we are not divided by gender, race, HIV status, economic means, or any of the other characteristics that separate us."

The LGBT Community Center project is planned for the site at 1800 Market Street, at its intersection with Octavia. A variety of programs and activities are planned for the community center, and it is hoped the building will serve as a "first stop" for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people when they visit or move to the city.



Jody Cole: "I've never made a gift of this sort before, but I want people to take this seriously."

San Francisco fundraiser Alix Sabin said that Cole's challenge has set a new standard for lesbian philanthropy. "The largest financial gifts typically come from the men in our society, whether they are gay or straight. I'm certain that Jody's gift is among the largest ever given by an open lesbian to a gay or lesbian organization. It is extremely significant."

Firefighter support

Kerr, a firefighter for over two years, said she and Nicholson decided to help promote the community center because they feel it will be important for the queer community. They are hoping at least 10 gay and lesbian firefighters will sign on as founders so that the group can have a table at the upcoming Founders' Dinner Friday, November 14, at the Hyatt Regency. There was some talk of starting a friendly wager between the fire and police departments to see which group could fill a table at the dinner.

"We think it's a great idea to have a community center," Kerr told the B.A.R. "We do support it and want to show our presence. The department in general has emphasized more community involvement."

Nicholson, a four-year veteran of the fire department, said she and Kerr were among those who rode fire trucks in this year's gay pride parade. The trucks, with lights flashing and sirens blaring, always draw a huge response from parade onlookers.

"Queers love uniforms," said Nicholson.

There is no formal gay employee organization within the San Francisco Fire Department. The gay and lesbian firefighters are a very informal group, and getting about 15 of them to show up Sunday was rather remarkable.

Cole moved to San Francisco in 1984, and quickly became involved in nonprofit organizations. Currently, she serves on the board of directors of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and Resourceful Women, a national organization that provides financial and philanthropic education and emotional support for women of wealth. She has also helped the National Center for Lesbian Rights, A Fund of Our Own's LAVA Awards, and Assemblywoman Carole Migden's successful campaigns for supervisor and the state Assembly.

An animal lover who has three cats and a puppy, Cole has served for the last eight years as a volunteer assistant supervisor for animal care at the Marine Mammal Center.

Cole was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated from college in Spartanburg, South Carolina. ▶

Women - or men - who would like to become founding members of the CCP should call (415) 437-2257, or check out the project's web site at www.sfgaycenter.org

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SF HIV workers write, co-star in film about immigration and AIDS

'Del Otro Lado' to begin filming in Mexico

by Ron Lazar

You are gay. You have HIV. You live in Mexico City. What do you do?

If you are like Alejandro, the main character in the planned movie *Del Otro Lado* ("The Other Side"), a gay love story set in Mexico City, you leave.

According to experts including Gustavo Craviootto and Mario Callitzin, two San Francisco HIV educators who wrote the original screenplay and will co-star, Alejandro is typical of many unfortunate people not on the government health insurance plan and unable to afford the latest anti-HIV medicines, which are not readily available in Mexico anyway.

When Alejandro decides to leave his home for medical help in the United States, the story shifts from the dread of seeing him suffer physical collapse to an equally devastating disintegration of the social structures that support him: his family, his lover, et cetera. This is "The Other Side" of the impact of HIV in developing nations. "The Other Side" is also about the physical border Alejandro must attempt to cross.

Does anybody want to see a movie about an HIV-infected gay Mexican man's struggle to immigrate into the United States?

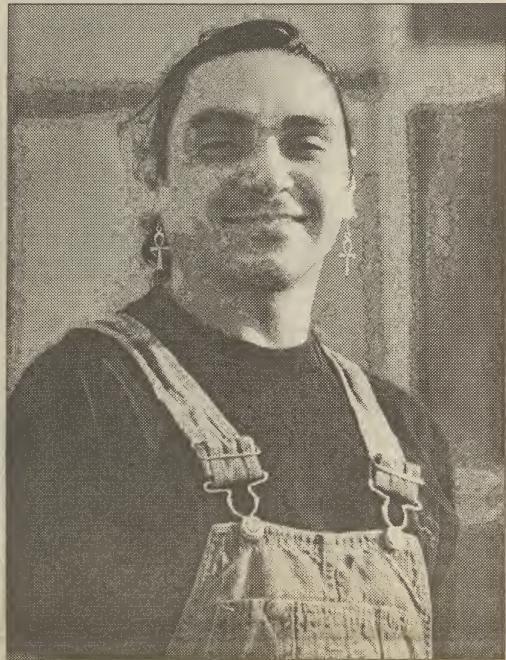
Absolutely, according to creative collaborators Craviootto and Callitzin, who work as HIV educators at the Mission District clinic Instituto Familiar de la Raza. They say they want to "emphasize the urgency around the need for individuals in underprivileged populations to educate themselves about HIV and seek treatments and services before precious time is lost and their health is irreparably compromised."

In what some might cheer as an appropriately brash gesture, these two young writers/actors/educators (both barely over 30) have created a nonprofit film production company, *"dos espíritus, S.C."*, to make their film become a reality.

The microsize budget of \$50,000 will only allow the fledgling filmmakers to shoot 16mm, in Spanish with English subtitles. So far, all is going well. The filmmakers have lined up a cast and creative team including award-winning actor Eduardo Lopez Rojas (*My Family*), Mara Ibarra, and Concha "Mayahuel" Saucedo (the executive director of Instituto Familiar de la Raza), director Crystal Griffith, and cinematographer Juan Cristobal Cobo Sanz. Financial support for the movie has come from as far away as the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico, Centro Cultural Mexicano, and a number of AIDS and human rights agencies in San Francisco.

Part of the American Dream

In an exclusive interview with the B.A.R., Callitzin articulated



Del Otro Lado's Mario Callitzin: "We want to spark a dialogue around the issue of HIV and immigration."

his reasons for his confidence in the project, and a sense of urgency about getting its message out there. "The characters' greatest fears become reality, but in becoming reality, they get what they want," he said. "We want to spark a dialogue around the issue of HIV and immigration." He also hopes the film will make money for more HIV education. The profits from the film will be put to work in *dos espíritus* to "educate people about health and cultural issues relevant to the Mexican population in both countries," according to their nonprofit statement.

The two men plan to fully dramatize how HIV infection can destroy the relationship between partners. "The character I play, Beto, has a lot of abandonment issues," Callitzin said. "My character's lover, Alejandro, is HIV-positive, but has a lot of support from his family, even for being gay. But Beto doesn't have his family around, so he has other issues that make him afraid to lose his partner. The movie is about these deeper things."

"As a matter of fact, there is a little conversation where Alejandro is saying to him, 'You know, maybe this is my chance to get out, to be in a different world where nobody judges me, and I don't have to worry about family, and I don't have to worry about relationships, and maybe my dreams could come true.' So in many ways he is voicing the concerns of people in a country like Mexico, where, because there aren't as many opportunities to have access to treatment, because of the economic situation, they feel that they want to get out. And

maybe if they come to the United States, it's going to be a better life.

"In a way, it is part of the American Dream, the fantasy that you're going to come here and all your dreams will be fulfilled."

So what should those people be thinking or doing? According to Callitzin, "It's a really tough situation. People in Mexico who are HIV-positive officially have access to all the medications available, including the latest treatments, like protease inhibitors — if they are insured — through the government. But the problem with that is, well, two things: first of all, relatively speaking, very few people are insured. And second of all, even though things are available, the kind of money needed [for medicine and treatment] is not available. You are not going to get a viral load test every three months. You might get it every six months or every year."

"T-cell count tests are very expensive. The government can't afford it, or doesn't want to afford it — though the government *has* been supportive of this project; that is precisely the ambiguity that we want to include in the movie."

Enmeshed in complexity

Callitzin told the B.A.R. that "the AIDS agencies in Mexico are enmeshed in the complexity of making access possible to everybody. The pharmaceutical companies are not making the drugs cheaper. The only way that AIDS medication and treatment can be made accessible is through government subsidies, right? The agencies are doing some lobbying to try to get the Mexican government to try to increase the subsi-

page 21 ►

COMMUNITY NEWS

Q Spirit hosts lesbian writer Patricia Nell Warren for fundraiser

by Shan Schwartz

Patricia Nell Warren, lesbian writer and author of such gay classics as *The Front Runner* and *The Fancy Dancer*, will be on hand this Friday, November 7 at a fundraiser for Q Spirit, a San Francisco queer spiritual organization.

The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at Kairos, 2128 15th Street (at Market). The event is free and open to the public, and donations at the event will benefit Q Spirit.

Christian de la Huerta, executive director of Q Spirit, told the B.A.R. that Warren will be speaking and reading from her new book, *Billy's Boy*, which is the third in her popular *Front Runner* series.

A lesbian author living in the Los Angeles area, Warren has written several best-sellers and published four books of poetry. She has attracted an estimated 20 million readers with her diverse subjects ranging from gay and lesbian life to native American philosophy.

Originally published in 1974, *The Front Runner* is regarded as one of the more popular gay love stories of all time, telling the story of track coach Harlan Brown and



Patricia Nell Warren

his Olympics-bound lover, Billy Sieve. Twenty years later saw the publication of a long-awaited sequel, *Harlan's Race*, which was Coach Brown's account of life after Billy and introduced readers to John William, a son born secretly in *The Front Runner* story. The new third book, *Billy's Boy*, is told from the son's point of view.

De la Huerta said the event would be a great opportunity to meet the author and be one of the first to pick up a copy of her new book. He said attendees could

meet Warren and have books signed after her reading.

Warren's publisher, Wildcat Books, has also agreed to donate a percentage of the evening's book sales to Q Spirit, de la Huerta said.

Q Spirit was founded in 1995 as an organization to foster personal growth and spiritual development without the harsh judgment encountered in some other organized religions. De la Huerta said the organization has monthly gatherings with speakers, discussions, meditation, and entertainment, as well as monthly service activities in the community.

Q Spirit also has a special seven-week lecture series underway, providing an opportunity to focus on different spiritual traditions "through queer eyes." The lectures take place at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays through November 17 at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street (at Market). A \$5 donation is requested at the lectures. The remaining lectures in the series will focus on New Thought (November 10) and Judaism (November 17). ▼

For more information on Q Spirit and its events, call (415) 281-9377.

PWA eviction

◀ page 5

rented to tenants. They posted a For Rent sign on the front of the building, without a phone number, knowing it would cause a series of people to ring Hershon's doorbell. They apparently hired a group of "thug laborers" and instructed them to "terrorize" Hershon. These people, too, blocked Hershon's driveway and refused to move their cars, or they parked on the sidewalk so close to the front gate that the tenants could not enter or leave through the front door.

Once, when Hershon was attempting to leave and asked one of the workers to move his vehicle, the worker's vicious response was to yell, "Fuck off, fag!" Finally, this past Monday, November 3, the partners posted yet another eviction notice on Hershon's front door.

When asked about these allegations by Hershon, Ross McLauran Madden, attorney for the partners, said that all of the charges were without basis in fact, that there were no acts of harassment or intimidation by his clients. In his view, it was Hershon who caused harm in the matter,

by telling the partners that he would make it extremely difficult for them to evict him and move into the building.

"There are always two sides to every issue," said Madden. One of the partners, James Sloate, who is associated with Sloate and Co. Specialized Real Estate Services, had no comment in the matter, and referred all questions to his attorney. Another, Sean C. Dwyer, said only that he and his fellow property owners intend to permanently reside in the flat now occupied by Hershon.

Plummeting T-cells

Throughout their alleged campaign of intimidation, according to Hershon and his attorney, the partners were well aware that Hershon is HIV-positive and "particularly susceptible to emotional distress." Their hostile actions, Hershon claims, caused him shock, humiliation, fear of imminent homelessness, reduced enjoyment of his living space, legal fees, the sale of his personal belongings, and the further aggravation of a pre-existing medical condition.

Indeed, says Hershon, who for 15 years had been asymptomatic while living with the virus, the stress induced by the partners' ha-

rassment caused him to incur a precipitous drop in his T-cell count and to develop his first opportunistic infection. His doctors have confirmed that Hershon is under enormous stress due to the "intolerable" situation at his home, and that this stress may have a direct bearing on Hershon's failing immune system.

On September 10, Hurlburt filed a complaint in the state Superior Court in San Francisco, alleging acts of fraud, malice, and oppression by the partners against Hershon and in violation of the local Rent Ordinance. In response, Madden says he soon will be filing a counter-complaint against Hershon.

While the outcome of these legal maneuverings hangs in the balance, the fight over owner move-in evictions continues to escalate. Whether or not Hershon is allowed to remain in his flat, free from harassment and left to regain his health, his battle epitomizes the intensity of the conflict renters and landlords are now engaged in throughout the city. Clearly the stakes for all sides are getting higher. Unfortunately, unless the city government acts to ease the situation, the casualties are likely to be more and more numerous and extreme. ▼

Del Otro Lado

◀ page 20

dies, because depending on where you are in that system, you might have more or less access than others."

Saying that "coming to the United States to gain access to treatment is a big odyssey. It requires too many things that are painful," Callitzin also said that the tables can be turned for those

who can get across the border. "If they come here and they approach one of these agencies," Callitzin says, "they will get the access and treatment they need, as much as possible. But it doesn't happen outside of the context of their lives. There are issues of poverty. There are issues of language. There are issues of legality. Fear that is associated with that. Trying to find work. Trying to learn the language. Missing home. Feeling isolated. Then having to

deal with a community that may be racist or not necessarily open to the needs of immigrants. There is a lot of exploitation that goes on. It is more of a human rights issue.

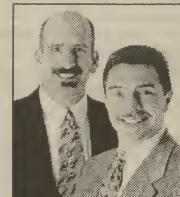
In the end, Callitzin believes the uplifting spiritual message will be the real value of his film. "The film gets into more symbolic areas and spiritual areas, because what the main character most wants is to live freely, and in a way he is able to get that." ▼

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Gay vets

◀ page 1

forget."

B.A.R.: In looking back at the tremendous battles for civil rights for gays in the military, the appalling way the military continues to persecute gays, and the three appellate court rulings upholding the ludicrous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, could you shed some light on our progress? How do you view the changes?

Cliff Anchor: It hasn't changed much at all. If anything, it probably has gotten worse, because what does it say for the military's morality when they expect an entire class of people to lie about ourselves? I put that to you. We are very big on talk about morality. How moral is it to expect an entire group of citizens to lie and to deny who we are? Talk about destroying "cohesion among the troops"? That is exactly what the Pentagon is doing. They have undermined the real purpose.

Please, tell me of something that you feel is a good sign.

The laying of the wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier last year. Two years before, we were identified as the "American Legion Post 448." The year after that, when we went to the tomb of the unknown soldier, we made sure that they said "gay and lesbian and bisexual veterans" because that was all announced on their agenda. They couldn't substitute other words. Make it visible, you see? The sister of a gay man who had been killed in Vietnam came up to me after that ceremony and said, "Thank you very very much for laying this wreath." That tells me the sense of family that we have. We must always retain that sense of family, that understanding that no matter what our enemies do to



Straight talk: Dr. Lawrence Korb addresses the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) Nov. 2 on the Clinton administration's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The event was a fundraiser to help support the group's work with military members targeted for harassment under the controversial policy.

us, or say about us, that we are there, are visible, and that we conduct ourselves honorably.

Still, there is a deeply felt outrage towards the unequal level of justice. Rep. Pat Schroeder said it plainly in a letter to the *Indianapolis Star* on the topic of same-sex marriages. She wrote, "The Pledge of Allegiance says, '...with liberty and justice for all.' What part of ALL don't you understand?" When straightforward logic and Constitutional fairness is met with injustice and bigotry, emotions can run high. We should not allow ourselves to remain politely excluded. Where is the honor?

The honor is in belonging to a family that has withstood tragedies for so many years, even when we were victims of Auschwitz, and places like that. That we have undergone all of this, and the honor is having people who have the courage and for-

titude to stand up to prejudice, no matter what the cost or the consequences. There are many gay and lesbian veterans that I can think of that deserve a great deal of respect, and we honor our own. If no one will honor them, we, at least, will honor our own, and make sure that they are visible and their good deeds are never forgotten.

You seem hopeful. Where does this hope come from?

The hope? I believe that's part of our legacy, that we are the people that carry this flame into the future, to make sure that we will see our emancipation through. And that's with the goodwill of a great many hetero people who under-

stand the significance of the integration of a country. You can not have a multi-strata society, those were feudal times. Today we are equal. Everybody has an equal share in the country. And if you feel that in your heart, you are going to do your best for your country academically, the best ideologically, and when you go into dangerous situations, you carry that in your heart. That you are thinking that you are saving the lives of perhaps somebody you don't even know, but you feel a sense of belonging and family.

What are we to think of on Veterans Day in the face of all this struggle and so little progress?

We should be thinking of each other, as gay and lesbian veterans that are still serving the country honorably and in uniform, and still have the feeling of patriotism. We need to focus simply on one thing – gaining our emancipation by earning public respect by coming out of the closet.

That's a very important thing, because the more that we are out there and visible, the more the public begins to understand that we are their sons and daughters, their uncles, their aunts, their grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, and mothers. ▼

AIDS money

◀ page 1

about AIDS, speeches don't fund programs in crisis."

Congress again appropriated more money for AIDS than the Clinton administration requested. Most glaring was ADAP, where the White House proposed no new funds and refused to push for an increase while the measure was under debate, despite pleas from the community to do so.

Seth Kilbourn, a health lobbyist for the Human Rights Cam-

paign (HRC), said, "These are clear signs that Congress understands the importance of getting the new drugs, primary care, and other services to people who might not otherwise be able to afford them."

He singled out Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) and Reps. John Porter (R-Illinois) and Nancy Pelosi (D-California) for their leadership on these issues.

Bill Arnold with the ADAP Working Group was "appreciative" of the increase but concerned that it is \$14 million less than the House version and less than the need. He fears "the cu-

mulative effect of two funding cycles of underfunding, which has resulted in ADAP programs in one sort of trouble or another all over the country."

The federal government allows state programs in crisis to draw down ADAP funding prior to the April 1 start of the cycle. But some state constitutions which require a balanced budget prohibit that type of arrangement. Arnold holds out hope of supplemental appropriations and acknowledged that the funding cycle for ADAP allows them some breathing room to seek that. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

'Shut up and kiss me!'

City College students protest return of military recruiting

by Cynthia Laird

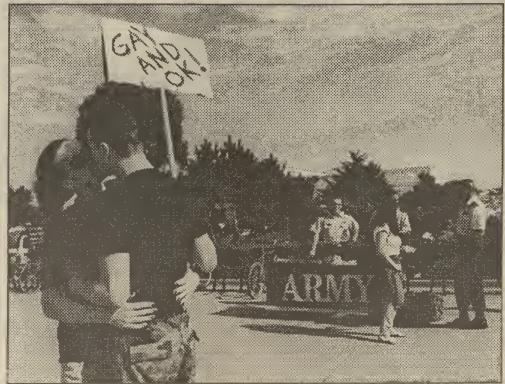
A small group of San Francisco City College students staged a peaceful kiss-in Tuesday, November 4 as recruiters from the U.S. Army and Air Force returned to the Phelan Avenue campus for the first time since the college board voted to allow their return in August. The college district banned military recruitment in 1992 in response to the military's policy of discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals because of their sexual orientation.

Recruiters from the Marines were also expected to be on campus Monday, but did not show up.

Most students seemed oblivious to the kiss-in and the military's presence, and few were in Ramm Plaza during the noontime demonstration. The four recruiters were low-key, even as a pair of male students, one wearing fatigues, locked lips in front of their small table, to the hoots of onlookers.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano showed up and promptly planted a wet one on the lips of John Caldera, president of City College's Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance (BI-GALA). Caldera said the group will be back on November 18, the next time military recruiters will be on campus. He attributed the small turnout to several factors, and said they had little time to get their requests in for tables to college administrators.

"The military is on campus for the first time in many years," said Jonathan Katz, faculty advisor to BI-GALA and chair of the college's Department of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Studies, the first of its kind at a U.S. college. "Their



Kiss and do tell: Chris Owens and Steven Roberts (left) buss for the benefit of military recruiters on the City College campus. Another kiss-in is scheduled for Nov. 18, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., in front of the Student Union.

presence here is unwanted, our principles are offended, and we are going to dog them until it becomes clear, even to the military, that they are not welcome.

"Either they get rid of their self-admittedly unworkable 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, or get the hell off our campus because we don't want [them] here," Katz said.

For their part, the recruiters said they will keep coming to City College to provide interested students with information about the armed forces. Interestingly, the Army recruiters told the B.A.R. that most students recruited through college campuses don't even make it into the service.

"We turn down more people than we turn in," said Staff Sergeant Ron Browning. "They can't pass the ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

Test], or the stringent physical or moral background check."

Browning said they're not trying to harass anyone and do not actively solicit students when on campus. "People come up to us," he said.

Fellow Staff Sergeant Cinque Marshall agreed, and said that between 20 and 25 students had approached them during their three-hour stint Tuesday.

"We want our presence to be known, the benefits we do have," said Marshall. "The Army affords people the opportunity to get money for college or job training."

Marla Leech, the other faculty advisor to BI-GALA, challenged the recruiters, saying the military has a history of discrimination, not only against gays, but other minorities. "Who the heck do you really want in the military, white men?"

Poll shows Americans support needle exchange

PRNewswire

Americans believe that cities and states – and not the federal government – should decide whether federal HIV prevention funds can be spent on needle exchange programs, according to a recent Harris poll. The poll, which surveyed 1,003 American adults by telephone from October 15 through 19, found that 71% of American adults agree that current law should be changed so that decisions on how to use federal funding for HIV prevention programs can be made by states and localities rather than the federal government.

Currently, federal law bans the use of federal HIV prevention funding for needle exchange programs.

Numerous studies have concluded that needle exchange programs dramatically reduce the spread of HIV and do not encourage drug use. Needle exchange programs are supported by the American Medical Association, the National Academy of

Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, as well as other prestigious medical and public health organizations. In addition, the American Bar Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have urged the federal government to allow states and localities to use federal HIV prevention funds to implement needle exchange programs.

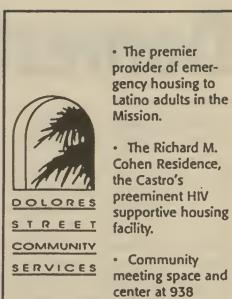
The poll found that 72% of Republicans, 70% of Democrats, and 74% of Independents agree that states and cities should be allowed to make decisions concerning the funding of needle exchange programs.

Even those who oppose needle exchange believe current law should be changed: 69% of those who oppose needle exchanges agree that decisions on how to use federal HIV prevention funding should be made at the state and local level.

When first asked if they favor or oppose needle exchange programs, 44% of those surveyed favor needle exchanges, while 42% oppose. When informed of which organizations support such programs

and which oppose, 50% support the programs, while 45% oppose.

The only poll conducted that has found opposition to needle exchange programs was commissioned in 1997 by the Family Research Council and found 62% in opposition to needle exchange. That poll, however, presented needle exchange programs and treatment as either/or choices. ▶



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Domestic partner benefits for Feds?

by Bob Roehr

Federal workers may one day have domestic partner benefits, but don't go looking for it in the next paycheck. Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) introduced the "Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 1997" (H.R. 2761) at a Wednesday, October 29 news conference on Capitol Hill.

The bill covers all 1.9 million civilian federal employees of the nation's largest employer. Its impact will be felt far from Washington, DC; only 14 percent of the federal workforce call that region home. Many more are scattered, from isolated forest service watchtowers to huge regional federal centers such as Boston, Atlanta, and San Francisco.

"My colleagues, especially on the conservative side, tell us regularly that we should model our practices after the private sector," Frank said. "So I have taken them at their word."

DP benefits have been sweeping through private industry like a tsunami. The trend began in the high-tech sector when companies sought to attract the best talent, and now has spread into many other sectors. A week doesn't go by without at least one major company announcing it is joining the ranks of those offering DP benefits.

Recently it was Electronic Data Systems, the conservative computer services giant founded by Ross Perot, announcing from its

Plano, Texas headquarters that it will offer health benefits to domestic partners of gay employees. PacifiCorp, parent company to Utah Power and Light, said the same thing from the heart of Mormon country.

Benefits can constitute up to 40 percent of compensation, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Most accrue directly to the worker, but some go to their families. Lesbians and gays are often excluded from those benefits.

Helen Gonzales, public policy director with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), offered this example: "It's the same as advertising a job in the newspaper saying, 'Salespeople wanted: salary for married heterosexuals, \$12 per hour; salary for unmarried heterosexuals and gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered persons, \$7.20 per hour.' We would all recognize that as unfair, illegal, and discriminatory."

Nita M. Lowey (D-New York) said, "All Americans deserve equal pay for equal work. For too long, gay and lesbian federal employees with lifetime partners have received far fewer employee benefits than their heterosexual coworkers with lifetime partners, simply because of their sexual orientation. It is time for the federal government to honor and recognize loving, committed relationships — whether they look like Ozzie and Harriet, or John and Kevin."

"It is no business of an employer ... whom an employee chooses as his or her family," said



Rep. Barney Frank: "This is a put-your-money-where-your-mouth-is issue."

with Time-Warner, said that DP benefits have been "an enormous success" for their 70,000 employees; Jack Krumholz, a lobbyist for Microsoft, called them "a recipe for success."

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), said that "these programs have been running in the private sector throughout the 1990s without one documented case of fraud. No company with such a policy has withdrawn it. Moreover, in the private sector, the cost has been minimal."

"The reality is that personnel turnover and recruitment expenses far exceed the cost of extending benefits to domestic partners," said Lowey. She cited the example of New York City, where fewer than two percent of city employees have enrolled in the program. As Frank explained, many couples work, have benefits through their jobs, and don't need to take advantage of DP benefits.

His staff had discussions with the Office of Personnel Management in drafting technical aspects of the bill. The Congressional Budget Office will evaluate it, as it does every piece of legislation, for its fiscal impact.

The Clinton administration "has not yet endorsed it," Frank said. "But I'm going to keep pushing. I intend to make clear to the President and Vice President how important their support will be."

He believes that a person seeking the Democratic nomination in the year 2000 "is going to have a very hard time trying to get votes from a lot of us [gays and government unions]" if they are not prepared to support the bill.

Frank is also calling the bluff of congressmembers who last year voted for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), while explaining that marriage was different but they would support DP alternatives. "This is a put-your-money-where-your-mouth-is issue. There is absolutely no reason for somebody who said that not to endorse this bill." ▼

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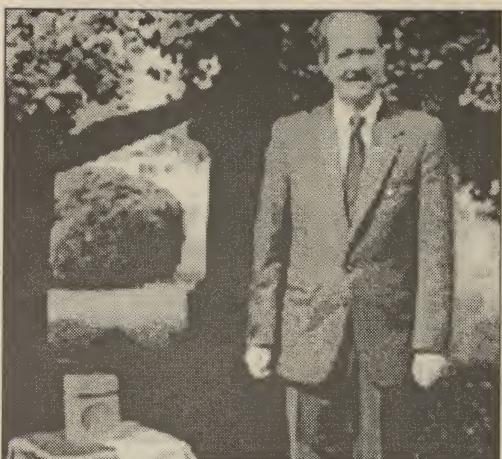
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Leonard Matlovich with Harvey Milk's ashes at the Congressional Cemetery in 1978.

Harvey Milk to be honored in Washington and SF Saturday

by Ron Lazar

Harvey Milk's legacy will be celebrated on the twentieth anniversary of his election to public office, Saturday, November 8, in ceremonies spanning the country.

In San Francisco, the former supervisor will be honored at a 2 p.m. ceremony in the plaza that bears his name, at the corner of Castro and Market streets. Mayor Willie Brown and others will raise a 20-by-30-foot rainbow flag on the brand-new 70-foot flagpole erected on the spot for the occasion. Other anticipated attendees include Assemblywoman Carole Migden and Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz.

On the other side of America, a celebration will be held at the Congressional Cemetery, located at 1801 E. Street SE in Washington, DC. Major media and many distinguished guests are expected to appear at the Washington event, including Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Congressman Barney Frank.

Milk was never buried; he was cremated and most of his ashes were scattered at sea after he was assassinated, but there is still an urn with a small amount of his ashes, his ponytail, and a campaign button, which has been kept since his death in the safe of the Congressional Cemetery.

A disagreement over the location of the urn's final resting place is still unresolved. Like many gay veterans, Milk cannot be buried at the Pentagon's Arlington Cemetery; the Pentagon still enforces its "no gays" policy on military personnel even after they are dead — perhaps fearing that dead gay soldiers will have a negative effect on the morale and cohesion of the other deceased soldiers — and bans symbols such as pink triangles on tombstones.

An ad hoc group, "Never Forget," was formed soon after Harvey's death to decide the disposition of the remains. Although

group members chipped in to buy a plot at the Congressional Cemetery, which is well-known and loved for welcoming gay military personnel and others, questions still remain about what will be done with the urn, which some see as a kind of time capsule.

One suggestion is for the urn to be returned to San Francisco and kept at the library until further plans are made. But retired Lieutenant Colonel Cliff Anchor [see article, page one] feels Washington, DC is the proper place for Harvey's urn.

One of the original members of Never Forget, Anchor told the B.A.R., "I simply want my spouse Leonard's and [Harvey's now-deceased partner] Scott Smith's wishes to be respected, since they and I feel, obviously, that had Harvey Milk not been so brutally murdered in his young life, he would have made it to Washington, DC on his own. That is why the relics were given to Congressional Cemetery in the first place."

The Washington event is chiefly due to organizer Mark Repass, who told the B.A.R. he hopes it will "bring people together to celebrate the existence of Harvey Milk and the event that happened 20 years ago."

Observing that there is still no epitaph on Milk's gravestone, Repass has a memorable suggestion. "I think when it comes time to carve the stone," he said, "the quote I would like to see put on it is Harvey's own prophetic words, 'If a bullet enters my brain, let that bullet open every closet door.'"

Repass strongly advocates for gay people to come out, citing this as the single most effective thing to do to influence federal policy. First, he urges gay people to be vocal to their congressional representatives. "I have been lobbying since 1993, and I have noticed that what makes the most effect on Congress is just to let them know we are here," he said. "Voters have got to call and write their Congresspersons and Senators and make that point." ▼

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SF AIDS Foundation responds to public criticism

by Mark Mardon

As reported in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, many people with HIV and AIDS aired grievances against various San Francisco AIDS service organizations, particularly the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, at a public meeting on Tuesday, October 28. At that meeting, no one from the SFAF spoke up to challenge the criticisms or offer a different perspective. This week, the B.A.R. invited SFAF board member Eric Ciasullo, the organization's vice chair for monitoring, to respond to the meeting. He told us that as a person with AIDS and a long-time activist, he has a very different view on his organization and its record of service to the community.

B.A.R.: Can you give your take on that public meeting and what everybody was saying about the foundation and other groups?

Eric Ciasullo: My perception was that most of the speakers were members of ACT UP/Golden Gate and/or former employees of the foundation. So while some of the stories that were told were hard to hear, the majority of the speakers were speaking not about their experience as clients but giving their perspective on the organization politically. I don't believe we heard from a broad cross-section of clients of the foundation at all.

If there had been a broader cross-section of clients, do you think we would have heard a different story?

It's hard to know what a meeting like that might be like. We invest time and resources in client satisfaction surveys and in focus groups, and most of our clients express a fairly high degree of satisfaction with most of our services most of the time.

Of the people who spoke, do you think they unfairly characterized the structure of the board and its openness or lack thereof?

I don't think that the board was accurately characterized, no. Right now a third of our board are people with AIDS, first of all. Secondly, there's a pretty broad range of diversity on the board, and most of the board members themselves are involved with their respective communities.

The point was made repeatedly that the board members of the foundation are not publicly elected by the people the foundation serves. Is that true?

That is true.

Now from some people's perspective, this is not a good situation. Can you describe how the board operates, how its members are chosen?

Board members for the SFAF are chosen the way most nonprofit boards are chosen. That is, our board actively tries to ensure there is diversity, with people from a variety of communities, with a variety of resources, who are committed to stopping the epidemic, who have a personal experience with the epidemic, who are able and willing to do the work of governance of the organization. It's not a very mysterious process, and it is in fact the way most organizations fill their boards. I don't know of any AIDS service organizations in the city that democratically elect their boards. And if we actually tried to do that, I think the implementation of that is beyond problematic.

Is the board happy with [SFAF Executive Director] Pat Christen's performance?

Absolutely. I personally served on the evaluation committee last year. She's evaluated annually. We think she is an extraordinary leader in the fight against AIDS, an incredibly able administrator, and that she provides vision and competence to the organization.

Now, so many people complained again and again that she has a high salary. [The most recent figures from McCormack and Associates Executive Search Consultants show that 73% of executive directors in America earn \$75,000 per year or less, compared with Christen's salary of \$148,790 in the 1995-96 fiscal year reported to the Internal Revenue Service.] Do you think their complaints are justified or unjustified?

As someone who's living on disability, I know what it's like to feel at times awkward around the reality that the people who are serving me make more money than I do. I think people are uncomfortable with it, which I understand. As reported in your paper, Pat's salary was aggressively enhanced over the course of the last five years in direct response to market research we did. It became very clear that Pat was extremely underpaid in respect to other large ASOs, as well as to other large nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area. So her salary has been arrived at as a combination of equity and parity.

The incident that seems to have precipitated this meeting involved [SFAF client] Michael Petrelis. The central charge was that he was unfairly denied services because he engaged in certain actions that upset Pat Christen in particular, and apparently others. Do you think that's the case?

No. I'm not at liberty to discuss anything about this. As I understand, this is a matter that is presently being mediated by mutual consent. The charge has been made that this is politically moti-

page 28 ▶

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Palo Alto AIDS symposium on immune system repair Friday

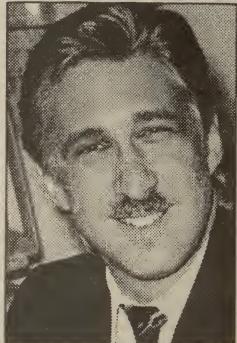
by Marv. Shaw

Thirteen medical researchers intent on discovering a means of defeating HIV will explore ways of strengthening and renewing the body's immune system at an all-day session this Friday, November 7 at Palo Alto's Garden Court Hotel. Dr. Stanley Deresinski and Dr. J. Allen McCutchen of the AIDS Community Research Consortium invited symposium faculty members from throughout the nation to confer about expanding AIDS therapy beyond current methods. A.C.R.C. Executive Director Michael Edell is coordinating the invitation-only session.

A dozen education goals have been set forth for the "Immune Reconstitution in HIV Infection" conference, beginning with basic understandings such as the role of the thymus and the evolution of immunodeficiency in HIV infection. Discussion of novel proposed therapies, such as autologous lymphocyte infusion therapy in HIV infection treatment, and HIV gene therapy trials, will follow.

Deresinski told the B.A.R. that although protease inhibitors have achieved some success in combating HIV infections, other means need to be discovered and used, especially ones that will use such infusion therapy modes as autologous CD4-zeta gene-modified cells ("autologous" refers to cells taken from and returned to the same body). Such techniques could "repair" a damaged immune system, Deresinski said, eventually filling in "holes" that HIV has created in the immune system.

Researchers also see possibilities in xenogeneic thymus grafting, with material from the thymus of pigs used as therapy.



Michael Edell

"Xenogeneic" in this context means "from a different species."

Deresinski emphasized that because there are so many uncertainties in such investigation, it is vital that information from trials and similar efforts be shared. The symposium in question is one such public outreach.

Therefore, twice in the ten hours of the session, panels will be formed and views exchanged to make sure everyone is informed, involved, and invited to raise questions.

Deresinski does not predict drug therapies replaced by this forthcoming development of genetic therapy. Rather, he believes a multi-modality will emerge, with the proven benefits of drug care still used along with the benefits of gene therapy.

Deresinski said he envisions this same kind of cross-fertilization of very complex data from many disciplines becoming more and more the dominant procedure in the fight against AIDS. He hopes that this symposium will be only the first, with many more to follow, preferably more than one a year. ▼

NIH funds PEP pill study

BW HealthWire

The National Heart Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has awarded a three-year grant of \$968,850 to a Berkeley laboratory, to accelerate the development of a new therapy for post-exposure prophylaxis of HIV infection.

Dr. Carl V. Hanson will serve as principal investigator for the grant at the California Department of Health Services Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory in Berkeley. His team will investigate a new murine monoclonal anti-

body, called B4, developed by United Biomedical, Inc. of Hap-pague, New York.

"Unlike other anti-HIV monoclonal antibodies, B4 targets the host cell receptor complex required for attachment and entry of primary clinical strains of HIV, rather than targeting the virus itself," Hanson said, "and thereby is effective against the broad spectrum of variable strains of HIV."

"B4 has several properties which make it an attractive candidate for development as a post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection," according to Hanson. ▼

Correction:

Last week's article "Queer classes looking for students" incorrectly identified the educational institution as the Harvey Milk Academy. It should have been listed as the Harvey Milk Institute. The rest of the article was correct, but we are still embarrassed and apologetic about the error. ▼

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Robert Garlington
March 15, 1944 – Oct. 4, 1997



Robert Garlington, 53, left his body Saturday, October 4, due to AIDS-related causes.

Born in Albuquerque, N.M., Robert graduated from West Texas State University, where he was the chaplain of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and a member of the ROTC senate. He attended the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver, and was the

art director at AstroWorld.

Robert lived in Santa Fe and Laguna Beach before settling in San Francisco, where he was a designer and gardener. He had recently left San Francisco to return home to Muleshoe, Texas, where he was raised. He leaves his loving mother, Ethel Murray of Muleshoe; brothers, Loyd Garlington and Jerry Garlington; and his sister, Sandra Edge. Robert also leaves many friends who will miss him greatly. He died in a hospital in Lubbock, Texas, and was cremated.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, November 16, at 2 p.m. at Duboce Park, and afterward, there will be a gathering at 507-C Noe Street, the home of Jack Jansen. For more information, call Jack at 487-0251.

John J. O'Malley
April 29, 1949 – Nov. 2, 1997



John, a resident of San Francisco's Castro District the past three years and a former resident of Washington, D.C., passed away peacefully Sunday at noon on his way to a happier place.

John, a founding member of Dignity, had a great capacity for love and living life; he was always there for friends and family in need. His sense of humor, great intellect and love of people were always evident. John was trained as a singer, and had a passion for classical and show music, especially opera. His wide grin, twinkly eyes and hearty laugh always brought a smile and touched the hearts of many. He had a talent for turning

negatives into positives.

John is survived by his life partner, Martin Fritz; his mother, Bernice O'Malley; and brother, Michael O'Malley. Services will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. Donations may be made to MCC. We love you, John, and will miss you deeply. You will be in our hearts every day.

Fritz Shultz
September 24, 1997



Fritz Shultz died of AIDS on September 24. Born and raised in Lodi, he graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 1978 and went on to get his teaching credential. He was an active and much loved member of

Bethany Methodist Church for 15 years, where he was involved with Affirmation, the church's gay outreach program.

Fritz was an avid music lover, with particular favorites including Patti Smith, David Bowie and The Grateful Dead. The great love of his life was Sam Dallesandro, who died 10 years ago.

Fritz's quiet generosity, decency and warmth were always an inspiration to all who knew him, and will continue to be so. Bethany Methodist Church in Noe Valley has established a memorial fund in Fritz's name to continue his work in gay outreach. Contributions can be made to Bethany Methodist, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

HOPWA gives \$19.6M in new grants; \$0 for NoCal PWA housing

by Mike Salinas

This week, U.S. Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo announced nearly \$20 million in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants to programs providing housing and supportive services for low-income people with HIV/AIDS and their families, and for the evaluation of current programs.

The grants are part of HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, which is distributing \$196 million in 1997 grants. Ninety percent of the funds are distributed to cities and states by a formula based on the number of AIDS cases reported. HUD awards the remaining 10 percent – the \$19.6 million Cuomo announced Monday, November 3 – as competitive grants.

"This administration recognizes that providing affordable housing is a key part of our response to AIDS," Cuomo said as he announced the grants. "Tragically, HIV/AIDS too often throws hard-working Americans into poverty, hitting them with huge medical bills and sometimes leaving them unable to work."

According to Cuomo, the new grants will help an estimated 11,000 people with HIV/AIDS in 20 states to remain in their homes by providing rental assistance and needed supportive services such as meals, medical care, and counseling; will provide housing to people with HIV/AIDS and their families facing homelessness; will identify homeless people who have chronic problems with drugs, alcohol or mental illness for special assistance; and will help develop ways to better plan,

design, manage and evaluate housing and related assistance for people with HIV/AIDS.

Despite Cuomo's assertion that "HUD assistance is vital to prevent those in greatest need from being forced into homelessness," no grant money will go for that purpose in Northern California; instead, HUD awarded \$100,000 in the latter category, to "evaluate" two HOPWA-funded "HIV Multiple-Diagnoses Initiative Projects" in the area.

Fifty thousand dollars will be used to evaluate the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation in San Francisco, and the Housing and Outreach Transitional Strategies Collaborative (HOTS) it formed in collaboration with Catholic Charities, Legal Services for Children, and the Edgewood Family Center. HOTS assists homeless families with dependent children who are living with HIV/AIDS and also affected directly by substance abuse and/or mental illness.

Another \$50,000 will be spent

evaluating a collaborative effort between the Housing Authority of Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. That program provides short-term emergency funds, long-term scattered site housing assistance, and intensive supportive services and treatment for 200 persons with HIV/AIDS who are homeless and having difficulties with substance abuse or mental illness.

ACT UP/Golden Gate member Michael Lauro, a person with AIDS who is currently facing eviction from his apartment, feels more needs to be spent directly on housing – immediately – to address the current crisis for PWAs facing imminent homelessness. He told the B.A.R., "I'm angered that when nothing gets done, we're told it's being addressed in a broader policy level – and then when policy changes get implemented, nothing still gets done."

"It just goes to show me that the people in charge of the housing crisis in San Francisco need to hear from those of us who are mostly affected." ▼

AIDS Foundation

◀ page 26

vated. The question I would ask is, is this a choice that has served us politically?

The assertion was made that Michael Petrelis is only one of many people who have been denied services. Do you know if that's the case?

I think it's very rare that a client is denied services by SFAF. And we have an established grievance process for that as well.

Contrary to what was said at the meeting?

Yes, and anybody can get a copy of that grievance process if you call the AIDS Foundation.

And anybody can go to your board meetings? There are no restrictions?

For all intents and purposes, there are no restrictions. We ask that we be informed within 48 hours beforehand if folks want to attend a board meeting. If we get the request, we get back to them

next page ▶

Combination Drug Therapy: Let's review the basics

by Phil Alden, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Current medical theory states that the latest hope for people with HIV/AIDS is a treatment regimen known as Combination Drug Therapy, or CDT. The treatment is also being referred to as HAART, which stands for Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy, but CDT is a better acronym for the purpose of this article. Combination Drug Therapy is a serious regimen with serious consequences for those who take it. The drugs lower the viral load and raise T-cells in most patients, though it doesn't make AIDS go away, it merely puts the brakes on further viral replication. Eradication of HIV is a hot topic right now, brought into the light by the initial success of CDT, but there's no conclusive evidence yet that Combination Drug Therapy can eradicate HIV.

To understand CDT, it's important to know what these drugs do. When HIV enters a host cell it replicates copies of itself and sends them out to infect more cells. The infected host cell is then killed by the body's natural immune response. The therapy is a combination of antiretroviral drugs that interrupt the HIV replication at two or more stages, making infected cells unable to produce more virus. The impact of CDT is galvanizing. People who were at the brink of death have survived and even become functional. Anecdotal evidence suggests that almost everyone who has taken CDT has had their functional life-span extended. On top of this are new studies about proteins and enzymes that dictate how the HIV virus interacts with the human body. Science offers real hope to people with AIDS, but it appears to be a foot race between disease and scientific discovery. There are some very dedicated researchers who have not only saved many lives, but will

probably save many more.

The short-term side effects of the therapy vary from person to person, but are acute in a significant percentage of people because CDT drugs have very high toxicities. AZT, the first antiretroviral drug, is incredibly toxic. A number of patients experience stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, neuropathy, and a greatly suppressed appetite. Doctors carefully watch some people on CDT for possible kidney stones, and people who already have gastro-intestinal problems caused by ulcers or other factors.

Some physicians are concerned about the long-term effects of CDT, and there's theoretical talk about renal failure or other permanent organ damage five or ten years down the road. To most people on CDT, that's a bargain. Potential bad health down the road is better than dying today. There is also new evidence suggesting that CDT restores valuable stem cells and T-cells, and that the immune system is capable of repairing itself.

No vacations

A CDT patient is on a tight schedule every single day. Often patients have the drugs in combination, four or five times a day, at the exact same time each day. With additional medications to counter side effects and treat other conditions, a patient's medicine cabinet begins to look like a small pharmacy. They get no breaks for weekends—in fact they can't stray from the path or take a "medication vacation." If the therapy is interrupted for even a few days, the HIV virus will mutate around the medications, most likely making it impossible for the patient to ever use them again. When CDT is halted for any reason, viral load rises quickly.

CDT costs a lot of money. Without assistance, the monthly bill for the medications alone would be well over \$1,000. For most HIV/AIDS patients, such a sum would be completely out of

their reach. The medications are distributed by the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, ADAP for short. ADAP funding is very low, and the program is cutting back their membership rolls and taking some of the drugs off their list. Federal block grants to states have had devastating effects on people with HIV/AIDS. Some politically right-leaning states decide not to use the grants to fund ADAP.

Without the block grants, states would be forced to leave the federal funds in the ADAP programs.

When ADAP fails, patients who rely on these drugs will fall into a downward spiral of falling T-cells and rising viral load, culminating in opportunistic infections, full-blown AIDS, and death. ADAP is starting to remove drugs from their lists in almost 25 states.

Some problems

Another concern in the medical community is the possibility that a person carrying a mutated form of the virus might transmit it to an HIV-free sexual partner. This is serious because the newly-infected person has an HIV virus that potentially could not respond to available medications. Disease progression could be rapid. Since there is little scientific data to make such a claim, researchers must watch for cases of HIV that don't respond to the drugs. People infected this way might not live as long unless newer drugs offer them the same chance that patients on CDT have now. Research must continue rapidly and effectively.

Many people who take CDT are in the workforce, and this creates a myriad of problems. Most companies have reduced the amount of privacy that employees have by utilizing cubicles without doors, or bare rooms with desks. For a lot of people living with HIV/AIDS, this lack of privacy is a direct threat to their medical anonymity. The majority of people on CDT are not lawyers and doctors with wonderful insurance programs; many work at entry-

level jobs that offer little or no security. Adding to the visibility of ingesting drugs at work are the side-effects. Most people can't use medical marijuana at the office to calm nausea. Frequent doctor visits during the workday and random drug-testing are also factors for working people on CDT.

All in all, though, the benefits of CDT far outweigh the cost and toxicity. It's clear that people who have access to CDT and comply

with the regimen will live longer. As long as patients can tolerate the drugs, their functional lifespan is extended. They'll stay healthy longer, be able to stay in the workforce longer, and get to hold on to the dream shared by all CDT patients, that the extra time they're buying might help them make it to the next generation of drugs. If the word hope applies to anyone, it applies to people on CDT. ▼

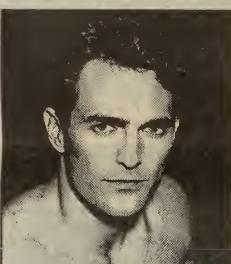


ACT UP

ACTION UPDATE

Join the ASO Accountability Campaign

On Tuesday, November 4, 1997, ACT UP/Golden Gate voted to adopt the "Sunshine Demands" to foster greater community accountability on the part of large AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs). The demands were discussed at a community forum held on October 28, 1997. ACT UP is seeking individuals and organizations to sign-on to our Sunshine Campaign. The Sunshine Demands are available at www.accountabilityproject.com. To sign on or to get a hard copy of the Sunshine Demands, call (415) 252-9200. ▼



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An honorarium of \$50.00 will be provided.

For more information, please call (415) 931-7242

This study will be conducted by a Ph.D. candidate in Psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology as research for a doctoral dissertation.

AIDS Foundation

◀ previous page

and talk about their reasons for coming, and who they are, and all of that. Generally speaking, anyone who wants to come can come. If we have reason to believe that the purpose in coming to the board meeting is to threaten staff or board members or to totally disrupt the meeting, then we're going to be reluctant to invite them to come to the meeting.

Why is it nobody from the AIDS Foundation said anything at that meeting?

I can only answer for myself. My perspective is that it would have been inappropriate. The AIDS Foundation as an organization was not invited to attend or speak. The purpose of the forum was for people to come together and air their concerns and criticisms of the Foundation, not to engage in a dialogue between organizations and people not affiliated with organizations. So to have come and tried to engage in a dialogue to me would have been somewhat presumptuous. ▼



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Balls

by Jim Provenzano

Two students have sued the Meeker School District in Denver, Colorado, and have accused administrators of ignoring reports that wrestling coaches beat, sexually assaulted, and mentally abused wrestlers for 20 years. 17-year-old Steven Moore and 18-year-old Steven Whalin allege that the district violated their civil rights by maintaining a long-standing tradition of abuse known as "The Meeker Way."

Head wrestling coach Mike Tate, who went on trial last month on second degree assault charges brought by Whalin, is named in the suit with former coaches Bill Turner and Chuck Tate. The suit says abuse complaints, dating back to 1977, allege "brutal acts of sexually aberrant physical torture and violence upon wrestling program male students."

Whalin reported last January that Mike Tate grabbed him by the genitals and lifted him off the floor during a practice session. Doctors say the incident left Whalin permanently injured.

Dedicated Sports Complex readers are already saying, "See, yet another example of repressed homosexuals unleashing their pent-up sexual desires in an unproductive way." Those of you who recognize this behavior for what it is — the horror that is the

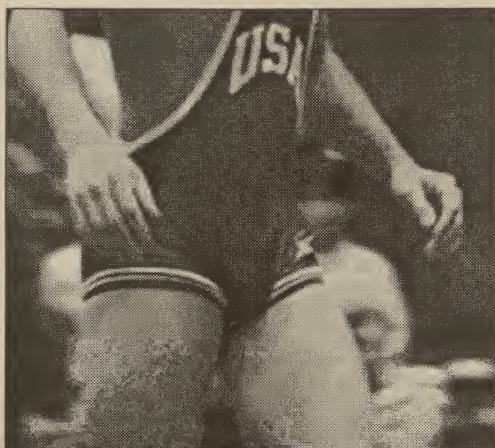
closet — will understand. While sexually aberrant physical torture certainly sounds tasty as an extracurricular activity to many in our community, it is prefaced with the term "consensual," something that seems to be excluded from "The Meeker Way."

Survivors of high school sports are familiar with the numerous groupthink abuses perpetrated on young kids. Rituals, hazing, punishments. This builds character, we are told. The one thing that will mark you for life is quitting, or refusing to participate in any of the numerous abuses known as physical education.

While the concept of sexual activity between coaches and students is a common fantasy in the erotica/porno industry, and in our fantasies, in real life it takes on harsher, more violent, and unpleasant results. In the case of straight kids who are sexually abused by their coaches, it can evolve into homophobia, even to psychotic proportions. With gay kids, it can lead to unhealthy obsessions with certain forms of sexuality, particularly that of a violent nature.

Now, I'm sure a few critics, such as those proponents of the "hypermasculine environment," will discard my "pop psychology" summations as "PC feminist drivel." The rest of you know better.

The closet is a dangerous thing. Those who consider such abusive coaching behavior as a



Scrotum scare: All ball-stretching should be strictly consensual.

mere aberration should check out any athletic high school environment. It is founded on abuse. It is founded on torture, pain, and punishment; reward for the strong, punishment for the weak. That is athletics.

Add to that cocktail a repressed teacher who cannot come out, to his community, or even himself, and put him in a situation where the sweaty beauty of his players daily charges him full of sexual desire, desire which he cannot express, because of the structure of our current society, and you have a Molotov cocktail of emotional tension waiting to uncork.

For Mike Tate, his cork popped when he grabbed little Steven Whalin by the balls, something he probably has wanted to do for a

long time. I'm sure many gay men would love to grab a 17-year-old wrestler by the balls, but that doesn't mean we can, or should. Especially without their consent, laws be damned.

Mike Tate represents the worst of the closet. I don't care if he's gay or not. I'm using him as an example of what sexual repression, poured into the outlet that is sports, can do to fuck up little boys and young men.

For Mike Tate, I think a little bit of "The Meeker Way" would help him say, being hung by his balls? It is time for this structure to be torn apart. It is time for the closet doors to open, and those repressed men to get help. For exposing this case, and putting an end to the bullshit, I congratulate Steven Whalin (who, although his are, according to the lawsuit, permanently damaged, is the one with the real balls).

Next week: sexual abuse of Giants! ▼

Jim Provenzano hosts the live version of *Sports Complex* each Wednesday at 6 p.m. on www.gay.net.



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Dateline: Amsterdam Marathon

by Paul van Yperen

Recently, the famous Dutch journalist John Jansen van Galen created quite a stir by announcing in his daily column in the Dutch newspaper *Het Parool* that he will be a participant in the Marathon of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998. He wrote, "To participate in Gay Games is for me a contribution to integration; members of the sexual majority experience what the minority has experienced for years. Next August, my relatives and the relatives of Mayor Patijn will assume we are gays ourselves — they never expected THAT!"

In 1928, the Olympic Games were held in Amsterdam. The Marathon of Gay Games will be run over the same course as that of the 1928 Olympics. For runners from outside the Netherlands, the course will be a joy. The route goes outside Amsterdam through a typical Dutch landscape of mills, cows, pastures, and the Amstel River. It is the intention of the organizers to have boats on the Amstel River to follow the contestants.

Besides the Marathon, the 10 km and half-marathon will also be run. The Marathon will take place on Saturday, August 8. All competitors will start simultaneously at approximately 9 a.m. The maximum number of contestants that can register for the Marathon is 1,000 runners. The competition is open to those in a wheelchair. ▼

Only 39 weeks to go!

City College

◀ page 4

invalid, inaccurate, and unreliable, according to the complaint.

Costa told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the day after Jones's action, he became very ill, subsequently developed the painful yeast infection thrush, and his T-cells plummeted.

Costa received his copy of the second review shortly after he was ordered by his physician onto medical leave. He was informed in a letter from Jones that he could discuss the review, but such discussion must take place by October 24 — the day he received the letter in the mail.

On November 4, 1996 Jones denied Costa's outstanding request for sick leave, and recommended his termination. Costa was fired two days later.

In a November 4 letter to City College Director of Human Resources Clara Starr, Jones slammed Costa's rebuttal, charging it contained "numerous shocking inaccuracies" that led her to question his "honesty, his ability to be effective in the job

and to be ethical."

Attorney Kors, the former director of the gay and lesbian and AIDS civil rights section of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and former legislative aide to Supervisor Leslie Katz, dismissed Jones's comments about Costa.

"That's an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. If these were really issues, he wouldn't have gotten a good review in the first place. It's important to remember that in San Francisco in 1997, even in institutions that are supportive of our community, there are still supervisors who will discriminate against people with HIV, not only because of irrational fear, but also for selfish and budgetary reasons," Kors said.

A nine-month delay by the city's own Department of Human Resources in investigating Costa's case cost him the eligibility to apply for the city's disability retirement plan, as well as benefits from the city's catastrophic illness program, which had been approved prior to his termination.

The case is scheduled for a status conference in San Francisco Superior Court next April. A jury trial is demanded. ▼



HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options.
Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro, 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9:11-30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut, 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x2180.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSM, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

CLIP 'N' SAVE

Nov. PolitiCalendar

Meetings of interest to the community throughout November, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

SF Youth Commission
November 6, 20; 5-7 p.m.
City Hall, Room 207
401 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 554-6446

Board of Supervisors
November 10, 17, 24; 2 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor
401 Van Ness Avenue,
(Meets every Monday)
Info: (415) 554-5184

ACT UP/Golden Gate
November 11, 18, 25; 7:30 pm
592 Castro Street
(Meets every Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-9200

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club
November 10; 7-9 p.m.
Piaf's
1686 Market Street
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Info: (415) 522-3809

HIV Prevention Planning Council
November 13, 20; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church
1187 Franklin at Geary
Info: (415) 554-9000

L/G/B/T Pride Celebration Committee
November 16; 5 p.m.
Fox Plaza office building
1390 Market Street,
Suite 1225
Info: (415) 864-3733

SF Health Commission
November 18; 3 p.m.
SF Department of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowline Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-4181.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group

Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group

2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 557-7512.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS

ARIS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather

Support group for Asian men who identify with leather. Info: c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail ichoi415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places

Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for

people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bayland's Family Circle

Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy

Action which promotes safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez, 431-2427 x807.

Cannabis Club

Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market, 621-3986.

Catholic Charities

Pensioner and disabled HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community Center, more. 814 Mission, 281-1200.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9165.

Community United Against Violence

Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8114.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton, Call Hector, 565-1909.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center

Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka.

Gay Dads

Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists

Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

land. Info: 621-3900.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential, secure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3 & 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518, 567-2273.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox

Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. 529 Clayton, Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation

Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Research Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues. - Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Info: 457-3755.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/in-take, call Jill, 626-7000 x199, 1853 Market St.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Fri. every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 643-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10am-12:30am, 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs

Provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co. 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lesbian/Gay Christian Scientists

Meets 2nd Monday of each month for healing, insight and support. Info: 281-0636. or (800) 280-6653.

Lyman-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm. M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Meditation Sessions

For everyone, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Pacific Center

Counseling services for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Pacific Center Walnut Creek

Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

Project Open Hand

Provides free-prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Shanti Volunteer Training

Training over two weekends, 11/7-9, 15-16. To apply, call Kris Johnson at 864-2273.

Under One Roof

The Shop for AIDS Relief at 2362 Market seeks volunteers to assist customers and help with catalogue sales. Call Ian at 252-9430.

We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.

Men 9am Sat., 7pm Wed.; Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

Ex-Jesuit?
Anyone who was a member or
knows of a member of the
Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who
has had problems with sexual
harrassment or innappropriate
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An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Monday, November 3, 1997. Office hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. RFQ due November 17, 1997 at 2:00 PM; NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information, call Louis Voccia at (415) 557-6594.

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 217939

The following person(s) are doing business as KAMAKURA RESTAURANT, 77 Battery St., #100, San Francisco, CA 94104; Jun OK Kang, 79 Grand Ave., Sausalito, CA 94965; Moon Jungs Kang, 79 Grand Ave., Sausalito, CA 94965. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Jun OK Kang. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 8, 1997.

Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 217847

The following person(s) are doing business as COMFORT STATION, 275 Gough St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Psychic Eye Book Shop, Inc. (CA) 13432 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Mary Karahalios, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 3, 1997.

Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 217923

The following person(s) are doing business as ARTBYAARON, 12 Juanita Way, San Francisco, CA 94127-1733; Aaron Warren, 12 Juanita Way, San Francisco, CA 94127-1733. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of October 7, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Aaron Warren. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 8, 1997.

Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO 0213261

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as JMR CONSTRUCTION, at 442 Orizaba Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132.

The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on April 17, 1997.

Name and address of registrant: JOSE MANUEL REYES, 442 Orizaba Ave., San Francisco 94132. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed: Jose M. Reyes.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date October 14, 1997 Nancy Alfaro, County Clerk-Recorder, by J. Cardona.

Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO 0186326-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as (BAHUS) BAHUS ENTERPRISES, located at 954-A Portero, San Francisco, CA 94110.

The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on May 19, 1997.

Name and address of registrant: DIMITRI-

JEVIC BRANKO, 954-A Potrero, San Francisco 94110. This business was conducted by an individual.

Signed: Dimitrijevici Branko.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date October 22, 1997 Nancy Alfaro, County Clerk-Recorder, by Rachel Gousinfrao. Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO 020877-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as AMERICAN LEGAL NETWORK, located at 944 Market St., #704, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on October 24, 1996.

Name and address of registrant: ERNEST R. KRAUSE, 944 Market St., #704, San Francisco 94102. This business was conducted by an individual.

Signed: Ernest R. Krause.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date October 17, 1997 Nancy Alfaro, County Clerk-Recorder, by Rachel Gousinfrao. Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 217948

The following person(s) are doing business as YOUNG INFOTEKCOM, 1850 Union Street, Suite 1034, San Francisco CA 94123; Duece Young, 5311 Waters Lane, Hayward, CA 94541. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of September 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual.

Signed Duece Young. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 8, 1997.

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 218369

The following person(s) are doing business as DREAM KEEPERS AND THE ORDER OF LIGHT, 295 Buchanan St., #205, San Francisco, CA 94102; Michael J. Jarvis, 295 Buchanan St., #205, San Francisco, CA 94102; and Daniel L. Canniglia, 295 Buchanan St., #205, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of October 17, 1997. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Michael J. Jarvis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 27, 1997.

Signed: Michael J. Jarvis.

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 218370

The following person(s) are doing business as 49ERS FOUR MILE HOUSE RESTAURANT, 5251 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94124; Yolanda Jones, 5251 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of October 27, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Yolanda Jones. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 27, 1997.

Signed: Yolanda Jones.

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20 1997.

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na Niguel, CA 92677: Heather M. Aguilera, 81 Pearl, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of October 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Heather Aguilera. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 22, 1997.

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 1997.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 218262

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SFMOMA's 'Police Pictures' turns an aesthetic eye on forensic, scientific, and criminal investigative photography.
page 46

Porn queen Karr takes a gander at Titan Media's kinky 'Fallen Angel.'
page 57



Ira Sachs' 'The Delta' gives new meaning to the term 'Southern Comfort.'
page 44



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 27 • No. 45 • 6 November 1997

Miller's crossing

Tim Miller finds power in the written word

by William J. Mann

In 1990, Tim Miller — naked butt and all — was spread out in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Vanity Fair*, and nearly every gay magazine around the country, as well as on the evening news. That's when John Froehmayer, then the head of the National Endowment for the Arts, denied funding to him, as well as to three others, arguing that their work was "indecent." The four artists decided to sue, which promptly launched a nationwide debate over the public funding of art, not to mention a drawn-out series of court cases.

Miller's work has always been both intensely political and deeply personal. Known for getting naked on stage and sitting on the lap of some unsuspecting audience member, he's never had a reputation for subtlety. When he performed his performance piece "My Queer Body" to SRO crowds all over the country, it may have been his "NEA Four" notoriety that sold tickets, but it was the fierce message of noncomplicity that one walked away with.

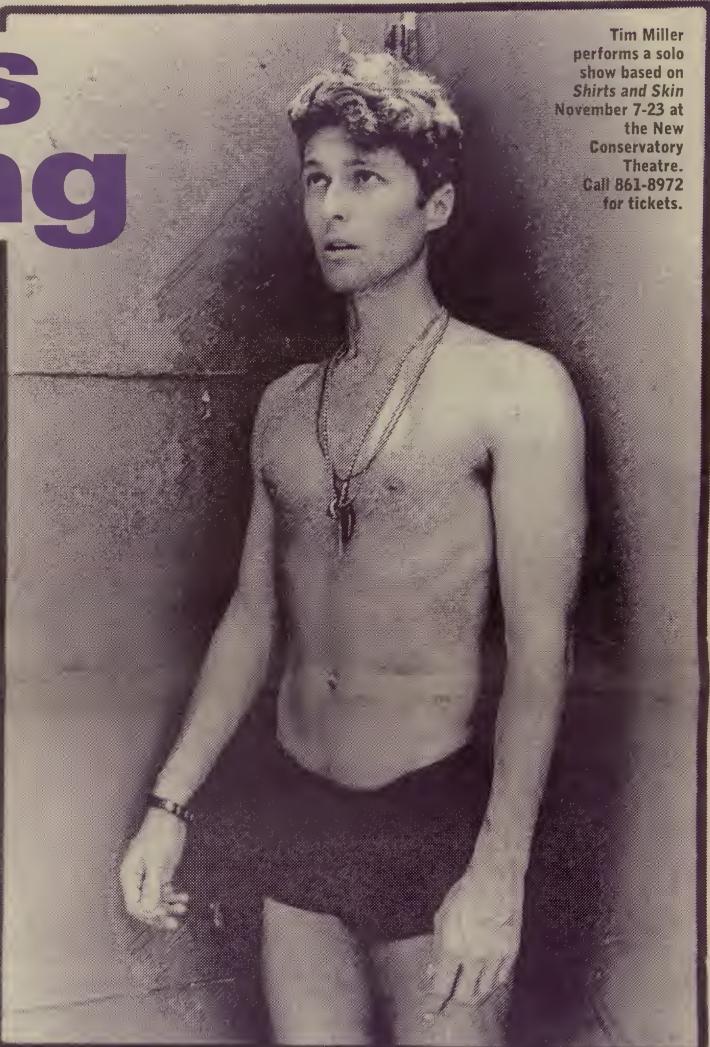
That message reverberates strongly in his first book, *Shirts and Skin* (Alyson). As part of his more personal approach to his art and activism, Miller has penned this memoir/novel/essay to take stock of gay life in the 1990s. He charts, with insightful and hilarious passages, the tumultuous ride we've been on for the last ten years. Even more importantly, he points a direction toward the future.

B.A.R.: Your book *Shirts and Skin* draws a good deal from the stories in your recent shows *My Queer Body*, *Naked Breath*, and *Fruit Cocktail*. What's been the evolution from one show to the other and from the stage to the page?

Tim Miller: *My Queer Body* was kind of peak, culture-war terrain, highly-inflated politics. I think *Naked Breath* was a little humbler. It was made after the demise of ACT UP, with AIDS feeling much more complicated and permanent. In some ways that piece was really about blood, about intimacy — moving away from political cheerleading or prognosticating. It was far more personal in many ways.

Fruit Cocktail was really diving into personal memoir, because I was writing

page 53 ►



Dana Ann McAdams



From DV8's *Enter Achilles*.

GAIL DAGON

Male bonding

DV8 dancers question your manhood

by Robert Johnson

What is it that men expect from other men?" asks Lloyd Newson, the queer British choreographer whose DV8 Physical Theatre brings *Enter Achilles*, a stereotype-shattering dance about masculinity, to the Center for the Arts this week. "What do men talk about?" "What does it mean to be conditioned as a man?"

Newson has a reputation for tackling difficult subjects in his work, making the kind of inquiries that can leave people who have never examined their prejudices red-faced and sputtering. With the intellect and training of a psychologist, the choreographer probes under the surface of contemporary life, forcing us to cast aside our defenses and assumptions in relentless pursuit of the truth.

At the same time, he's also questioned the validity of mainstream dance. "I think probably the person in the street associates the word 'dance' with very young,

page 40 ►

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Last Saturday found us living the good life in LA, cruising Sunset Boulevard in a rented limo, guzzling martinis with *les amis* at the Chateau Marmont, and sampling the tasty *vichyssoise tartar* at Oblivion, a newish, five star *boîte* whose waitstaff dresses like famously unfamously TV celebrities of the '60s and '70s (our waitress was a very convincing *Totie Fields*, but we didn't think much of the door man's unconvincing *Alan Seuss*).

Festive as it was cruising the strip and playing pin-the-tail-on-the-has-been, the high point of the evening was really the glam **Cindy Sherman** opening at LA's Museum of Contemporary Art. Because we pride ourselves on being woefully sinister, as one local screw-scribbler has laboriously described us, we just think Sherman is the cat's meow. No other *fin de siècle* artist can so deftly blend the extraordinary and the banal, the horrific and the hilarious.

The current show is a mid-career retrospective, hence there are prime selections from all of Cindy's major series, including: the Untitled Film Stills of the '70s, in which the artist herself poses for shots that recall signature scenes from B movies, the intent being a subtle critique of female stereotypes; her luridly entertaining History Portraits, a body of work referencing Old Master paintings that revisit, often humorously, such familiar art historical subjects as *Bacchus*, the *Madonna*, and the *Head of Holofernes*; and her most recent work, an alternately ribald and grotesque tableaux involving fragmented mannequins and contorted sex acts. These latter gems are a full-bodied response to today's puritanical climate of censorship in the arts.

The opening party was a blast. An estimated 5,000 Sherman fans showed up over the course of the evening, and though we did not see two of Sherman's biggest fans, Dennis Hopper and Madonna, we did spot actor Michael York, socialite millionaire Hermione Childress, performance artist Rachel Rosenthal, and actress Jeanne Tripplehorn, who is featured in Sherman's first film, *Office Killer*, which comes to the Castro Theatre December 12-18.

Who's sorry now?

Interesting item in this week's *Entertainment Weekly*. Seems **Burt Reynolds** is getting some of the best reviews of his career for that finely nuanced performance in *Boogie Nights*. But, according to EW, the kudos have been some-

thing of a shock to Reynolds, who was so turned off by the finished product that he promptly fired his agents at UTA, the folks who hooked him up with *Boogie's* writer/director **Paul Thomas Anderson**. According to EW's source, "He [Reynolds] saw the film before reviews came out and thought it was reprehensible."

That would explain all the innuendo-laden remarks made elsewhere by Anderson and cast member **Mark Wahlberg** about Reynolds' cut-and-dry demeanor during the making of the film, not to mention his prompt disappearance from the set the final day of filming. Wonder what kind of spin Burt will put on this if he gets nominated for Best Actor by the Oscar bunch?

Musical comedy

Hold on to your lunch, people! We almost spewed our squirrel and rhubarb paté all over Pac Heights scenerie **Filumena Wunderfrau** the other day when she let go with a juicy rumor from the ossifying bowels of the SF Opry. Apparently higher-ups at the company are thinking of asking **Carol Vaness**, the McLarynx who opened this year's season in *Tosca*, to return next year in *Bellini's Norma*. Can you imagine? Maybe SFO potentate **Lotfi Mansouri** should just stop farting around and hire **Carol Burnett** and **Tim Conway** and put on the musical-comedy variety show he's been itching to produce here for the last 10 years.

One thing we know for sure we're getting next year is **Wagner's Tristan und Isolde**. But is this a good idea? Pithy has unpleasant memories of nearly projectile vomiting all over her seatmate during a 1980 *Tristan* in which **Gwyneth Jones** and **Spas**

Wenkoff warbled and moaned their way through the piece as if they had instruments of torture clamped to their genitals. The 1991 *Tristan* was hardly better, as the featured Isolde, **Gabriele Schnautz**, sounded like she was suffering an anal impaction. As for the '98 SFO *Tristan*, rumor has it we're going to see the return of last year's *Salomé*, **Karen Huffstodt**, who reminded us so much of **Mary Poppins**. Wasn't it **Pierre Boulez** who once mumbled something about blowing up the opera house?

The woefully sinister **Filumena** also tells us that a certain **society columnist** for a daily SF newspaper has suddenly gone blonde. Does this mean said columnist will look less incongruous whilst bebooping with the kids at all those hip "clubs" and "scenes"? Hardly, but it does mean she can now pass as **Lord Sardine's** mother.

For \$800 ...

Who's been writing those questions on *Jeopardy!*? Perhaps some gay dance aficionado? Sure seemed that way to us one night last week when we heard this \$800 question in the arts category: "Critic **Arlene Croce** wrote about **Bill T. Jones** without having done this?" "What is without having seen the show," came the winning response. Poor Arlene, she's still here, but only game shows care.

Additional evidence of just how deeply the debate she ignited about Victim Art has penetrated the culture was provided earlier this week in a *New York Times* review of Jones' latest choreography, *We Set Out Early ... Visibility Was Poor*. "For many, including those who have not seen his work," wrote critic **Anna Kisseloff**, making a direct reference to Croce, "Mr. Jones has gained a reputation as experimental dance's most uninhibited provoca-



Bill T. Jones

cateur. Racism, homosexuality, AIDS, love and death are not subjects he shies away from. Some viewers are left uncomfortable; few are left unmoved." Unless, that is, you're Arlene Croce.

No longer eats chicken

Janet Preston, the woefully sinister chatterbox of the art journal *Coagula*, served up some hot dish in the December '97 issue about **Robert Rauschenberg**'s recent live taping of the *Charlie Rose Show* in the Guggenheim Museum's Peter Lewis Theater.

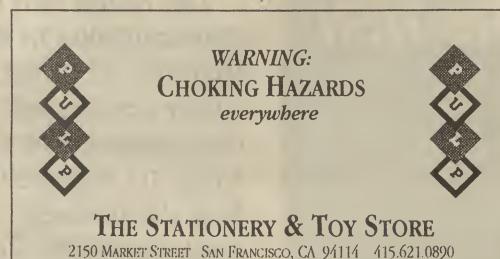
Preston notes that the event was needlessly prefaced with some dreary speechifying by Manhattan art wonk **Thom Krens**, who looked like "Frankenstein's monster in *Hugo Boss* undertaker black." Preston says she nearly heaved when Krens introduced himself to the assembled audience, Rose, and Rauschenberg with the rather too expansive observation that "It's been a sustained high for me to be able to play with **Frank Gehry** and Bob Rauschenberg." "Next time you need a stand-up comic in a morgue," wrote Preston, "dial Frenzied Krenzy."

As for Rauschy, Preston wrote, "he was utterly fascinating, generous, and open." Queer theorist and Rauschenberg scholar **Jonathan Katz** wasn't at the taping, so it's doubtful there was any mention of the Great One's homosexuality, though JP noted that when **Charlie Rose** "ignorantly asked if Bob had any pet chickens," Rauschenberg laughed and said, "I don't do chickens anymore!"

Daniel — please!

We were busy the other day clearing a path through the piles of moldering gay rags that clutter

page 56 ▶



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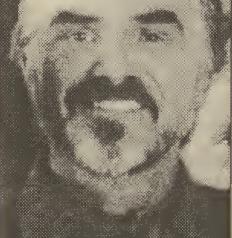
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"The music that dared not sing its name"

DV8

Arts cover

attractive people doing nice movements, not talking about social issues," he tells me during a recent interview. "Very often, dance is more about niceness and escapism than about reality. I feel a lack of connection with most mainstream dance because it doesn't talk about the world I see around me. Dance has been robbed of the power to offend and challenge."

Enter Achilles is sure to do both. In the piece, Newson turns his lens on the world of straight guys ("regular blokes"), producing a not very flattering picture of an evening in a local pub whose habitués happily sip pints until a mysterious stranger arrives and disrupts their routine. The rough and tumble choreography at times resembles a rugby scrum, yet the care these men take not to spill their beer suggests how delicately, and how dangerously, their world is circumscribed. Daredevil acts, commonplace gestures, and private moments of tenderness add up to a rich portrait of the ways men behave.

Though much in *Enter Achilles* is humorous, Newson the dancing philosopher is hardly abandoning his famously inquisitive stance. As usual, his work poses many questions.

"Why do men assume that someone is gay just because they do not conform to the stereotypical notion of what it is to be a man?" he asks. "If a man talks in a certain way, walks in a certain way, wears certain colors — if he doesn't fall into archetypal male roles, he's automatically assumed



From *Enter Achilles*.

Gadi Dagen

The problem with straight men

DV8's work isn't produced in the usual way, with the choreographer inventing steps and then teaching them to dancers. The work arises from a process of structured improvisations, with workshops dedicated to sometimes intimate topics of study. Among other goals, Newson wants "to break down the hierarchy between choreographer and dancer." He feels that the traditional method, in which a dancer copies movement that he is shown, often fails to capture nuances.

"I always found that people

The rough and tumble choreography in Newson's 'Enter Achilles' at times resembles a rugby scrum, yet the care these men take not to spill their beer suggests how delicately — and how dangerously — their world is circumscribed. Daredevil acts, commonplace gestures, and private moments of tenderness add up to a rich portrait of the ways men behave.

Contemporary Dance School, left a position with Britain's Experimental Dance Theatre to set out on his own. *My Sex, Our Dance*, a duet he performed with Nigel Charnock that same year, explored the issue of trust between gay men, using an explosive, physically dangerous vocabulary. In *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men*, a piece inspired by the life of gay serial killer Dennis Nilsen, DV8 gave mainstream audiences an unprecedented look inside the bar scene, with bracingly honest depictions of its longing, fear, and loneliness. Newson addressed heterosexual relationships in *Deep End*, and women exclusively in *My Body, Your Body*. His *Strange Fish* employed Biblical imagery to portray a woman's guilt and loss of faith.

could never do my movement as well as I could; and, vice versa, I would see them moving and I could never imitate them as well. One of the major problems with dance is that we often reduce the complexity of movement so that other people can learn it. And in many ways we eradicate idiosyncratic movement because it's just too complex. In the end, what you get is simplified movement, which reflects simplified thought. Improvisation is really just about trying to create a situation where people can discover their own movement vocabulary."

For *Enter Achilles*, Newson has assembled what was for him an atypical cast. "I tried to find a lot of heterosexual men for this piece, dancers who reflect the type of blokes I see in the street." The men he found — all of them prize specimens of run-of-the-mill

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machismo — proved, however, to be unusually skittish and intransigent in rehearsals.

To prepare *Enter Achilles*, the men studied rope technique, contact improvisation, and Irish step-dance. They also spent a lot of time kicking soccer balls around. When the work became too personal, though, the breeder boys found it hard to cope.

"I said to them, 'Well, what about your secrets?' And some of the men said, 'We don't have any secrets.' This was extraordinary for me, because do you know anyone who doesn't have a secret? It was the first time ever that I had a group of performers who didn't want to reveal parts of themselves. That was exciting and difficult, because when I got this group of men together and started talking about what it was like to be with other men, and what their relationships were with one another, I got quite a lot of resistance in the form of denial."

"Hence, the sex doll," Newson continues, referring to the inflatable Inamorata that is the prized and utterly private possession of one of the characters in *Enter Achilles*. "I had to find something that would represent men's secrets. And if you do a little bit of investigation into the sex-doll industry, it's extraordinary how enormous the turnover is in these dolls. Yes, a lot of people buy cheap sex dolls for jokes, but most of the market is for expensive sex dolls. And how many men do you know who will tell you that they've bought a \$650 sex doll? Not many, I think."

Violence on stage

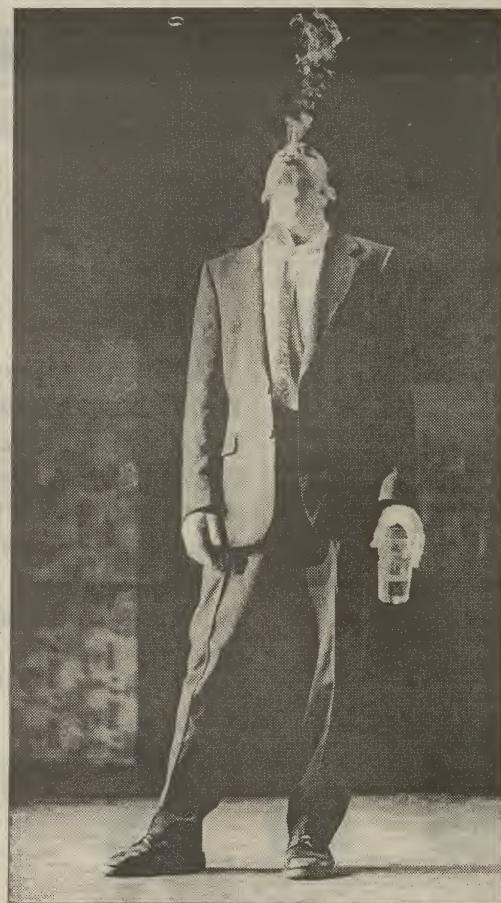
Old photographs of men wrestling also stimulated Newson's imagination. "I thought, are they embracing or are they fighting? So we did counterbalance positions, where two men lean into one another, and then are mutually dependent on one another not to fall, but if you look at it, you can't tell — is it erotic or violent?"

Violence is an important theme in *Enter Achilles*. "Men are constantly afraid of other men," Newson explains. "It's something that is not spoken of much. We hear a lot from women who talk about their fear of male violence, but actually I feel it every single day of my life. In the real world, you know you can't behave in certain ways, so I have modified my behavior, my actions, my voice, my walk, in order to protect myself."

In this sense, Newson's vision of the straight world in *Enter Achilles* is intended to portray "how men police one another's behavior, and how violence is used as a way to make people conform. We've been told that men have power, and that men have oppressed women, but men are continually oppressing one another on that front."

This applies not only to straight men and gay men in the straight world, but to the gay demimonde itself. "As a gay man, I'm still conditioned as a man," Newson points out. "I still play by the rules. If you go into a [straight] bar you can't behave in certain ways. I wear my Levis rather than my pink, satin trousers. I don't laugh as much as I would like, and I don't touch my gay friends spontaneously because I know I would be in danger. Some [gay men] have so absorbed notions of masculinity that they haven't thought about them, they've just grabbed — unconsciously I think — images of power."

"I think, ultimately, with *Enter Achilles* I wanted to make people question their conditioning. It's about how people use and abuse



"I feel a lack of connection with most mainstream dance," Newson says. "Dance has been robbed of the power to offend and challenge."

power, how much we can trust other people, and how much of ourselves is a result of our conditioning, and how we hold on to [ideas] of who and what we are."

Those familiar with Newson's work will notice in *Enter Achilles* that the choreographer has loosened up. His distrust of dance techniques that stifle performers' creativity now matches a distrust of rigid political positions and sociological theories. The result is a mature and all-embracing humanism.

"In my early days, I did work that was polemical and politically correct, work that came virtually straight out of feminist text books and social theory. But the world is a lot more complex than that," he says. "I started to realize that if you take any real-life situation and apply social theory, or the sort of idealized theories about how you would like the world to be, they fall flat immediately. Every human being is so complex and represents so many contradictions that I've become more intrigued just looking and listening to people, and I suppose in the end that is what informs it more than anything. I think there are too many people reinforcing fascistic notions of life, and I don't think enough of that is being questioned."

DV8 Physical Theatre performs *Enter Achilles* at Center for the Arts Theatre at Yerba Buena Gardens (700 Howard Street) November 6, 7, & 9. Call 677-0334 for tickets.

Films of Lloyd Newson's choreography, including *Strange Fish*, *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men*, and *Enter Achilles*, will be screened November 12 (7:30 p.m.) at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley.

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DANCE



Choreographer Mark Morris

Sweet and savage love

Morris and company return to Berkeley

by Stephanie von Buchau

There is no theater in San Francisco suitable for the Mark Morris Dance Group, so we must remain grateful that UC Berkeley's Cal Performances has formed such a creative bond with the big hairy guy who is now regularly being lauded in print as "America's finest choreographer." Yet there are problems with Berkeley.

On last week's visit to the East Bay, the Morris company looked gloriously physical and, in the white party duds designed by Isaac Mizrahi for *I Don't Want to Love*, as conventionally fetching as this group of deliberately mismatched, odd-body dancers ever will. (The "come fuck me" shorts-worn by adorable Shawn Gannon set some sort of "cute buns" record.) But when Morris reprised his 1985 masterpiece, *One Charming Night*, in which

the choreographer himself dances the part of a country preacher-vampire who seduces and drinks the blood of a waif-like child just "dying" for a religious and/or sexual thrill, the Berkeley barbarians giggled first and then burst into uproarious laughter.

The slick-slithery movements

of this blood-sucker, his paunch smoothly controlled by a black suit, his flexible feet prowling the stage like talons, his luxuriant locks greased into a severe ponytail, are anything but funny. Morris creates a figure of enormous charisma, power, evil, and androgynous but potent sexual-

The young people in 'I Don't Want to Love' want love in the worst way and look for it in the typical Morris permutations. I didn't entirely get it on first viewing, but then Morris the choreographer is seldom obvious enough for immediate comprehension.

ity; there is not a whiff of kindness in any of his nasty feline moves. No wonder Marianne Moore, whom he carries off into the dark, succumbs with such willing avidity.

The secret to understanding *One Charming Night* is the secret to all Mark Morris' choreography: the music. It is set to four happily innocent songs by Henry Purcell. In the celebratory "Lord, What is Man?" Morris shows us exactly what man can be, something never dreamed of by the composer. The music for *I Don't Want to Love* (1996) is a series of seven madrigals by Monteverdi; the yearning texts, of course, are iron-

ic. These young people want love in the worst way and look for it in typical Morris permutations. I didn't entirely get it on first viewing, but then Morris is seldom obvious enough for immediate comprehension. Yet there were moments where the mind bogged at the couplings. The essential chasteness of Morris' method yields emotional depths hardly dreamed of by choreographers who set their dancers graphically humping on stage.

The piece I really liked was *Lucky Charms* (1994), the kind of Morris jaunt that any audience can get, but which people with musical sensibility find hilariously satisfying. The music is "Divertissement" by Jacques Ibert, wittily performed by Morris' music director, Linda Dowdell, and members of the Berkeley Symphony. Morris makes Ibert's cafe-banal tackiness even funnier; the piece looks like the offspring of a forced union between Twyla Tharp and that '30s Russo-French dancer, Mikhail Smirnov.

Dressing his gang in sequined tops (with one of the "girls" obviously a boy; more of a tribute to Kraig Patterson's versatility than a deliberate, gender-bending jest), Morris sets them off in chauvinistic march formations that hint cruelly at how an inept army is not necessarily a joke. And they waltz in that woozy up-and-down style you can see in every ice show and badly choreographed musical. Needless to say, Morris' musical subtleties went right over the heads of those who had been guffawing a few minutes before at *One Charming Night*. Tant pis. ▼

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MUSIC

Ivory toasts

Thibaudet, Rubalcaba tinkle the ivories

by Timothy Pfaff

What sets Jean-Yves Thibaudet apart from the crush of other pianists isn't just his remarkable virtuosity and versatility, but the contagious joy for music-making he never fails to generate in each performance. Thibaudet's two appearances in the Bay Area over the past week testified to the full range of this 35-year-old musician's energy, range, and amazing musicality. Two Sundays ago, he accompanied mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschlager in a recital at UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall, and the following Saturday he made his first appearance at the San Francisco Jazz Festival with a "From Debussy to Bill Evans" recital at Herbst Theatre. What might have come off as feats felt more like a

If musicians can be divided into two groups, those who make it look easy and those who make it look hard, Thibaudet is solidly in the first group. The fact that there wasn't a wrong note in the two technically demanding programs he performed, however, seemed less a function of the pianist's astonishing keyboard prowess than his unfailing good taste. These performances were, in a word, transporting, and served notice that this is what real music-making is all about.

While nothing in his performance with Kirchschlager, who is enjoying a triumph as Cherubino in the San Francisco Opera production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, deflected attention from her, there was no mistaking this for anything but playing of the highest order. The pair's all-German program included rarities by Alma Schindler-Mahler (Gustav Mahler's wife) and Erich Wolfgang Korngold, as well as more standard repertoire by Mahler, Richard Strauss, and Alban Berg. In each case, Thibaudet captured the music's idiom with easy precision and tireless resourcefulness, and his sure grasp of Korngold's jaunty rhythms, colorful harmonies, and spicy dissonances clearly had a liberating effect on the singer. The rhythmic elasticity, enormous range of keyboard colors, and suave sense of dynamic ebb and flow Thibaudet found in Mahler, Berg, and Strauss wrapped Kirchschlager's voice in a blanket of sound that was positively orchestral in its plushness and depth.

The pianist's invitation to the Jazz Festival followed his enormously successful *Conversations with Bill Evans* CD for London Records, on which he plays transcriptions of solos the legendary jazz pianist improvised on his Verve recordings. *Conversations with Myself* and *Further Conversations*. Performing these works for an audience of jazz fanatics, for whom the late Evans has attained God-like status, was a disciplined labor of love. At the Herbst, Thibaudet saluted the classically trained Evans' acknowledged debt to the French impressionists by performing five of Evans' solos in the context of that music, of which Thibaudet is a recognized master.

I've rarely seen a Herbst audience as rapt as Saturday's. The transfixing virtuosity of a piece like Debussy's ecstatic "L'isle

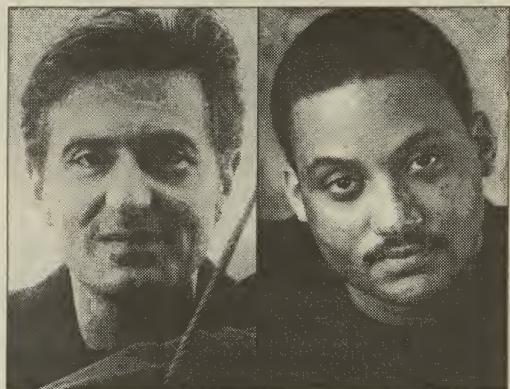
joyeuse," with which Thibaudet ended his program, was evident from start to finish, but what kept his audience in tingling silence all evening was the uncanny sense that he was lifting the music out of the Steinway rather than playing it into the instrument. Thibaudet's genius is not his digital dexterity, abundant as it is, but rather his delectation of the shifting harmonies, supple rhythms, and dappled colors of this musically complicated but enchanting repertoire.

Thibaudet began with two of Erik Satie's "Gnossiennes" and the most famous of the composer's "Gymnopédies," the latter played with a ravishing simplicity that seemed to suspend the music in time and space. He continued with Ravel's "Jeux d'eau" and three selections from Miroir ("Oiseaux tristes," "Une barque sur l'océan," and "Alborada del gracioso"), all dispatched with jaw-dropping delicacy. Although he worked his

greatest magic in the soft dynamic range, his capacity to build to surging climaxes and rippling splashes of color without breaking a sweat cast spells.

The pianist, who has just finished recording all of Debussy's solo music for London, also gave masterful performances of the Suite bergamasque and three preludes ("Minstrels," "La fille aux cheveux de lin," and "Feux d'artifice"), each selection supporting his own claim that this is "some of the greatest music of the century." Evans' greatest musical debt was to Debussy, and at the center of this heady brew, the pianist spun out ravishing accounts of Evans' signature "Waltz for Debby" in addition to solo versions of "Turn Out the Stars," "Lucky to Be Me," and "Here's That Rainy Day."

Was it jazz? Not quite. The improvisatory air of Evans' playing is still a step off, but Thibaudet's unstinting admiration for the music was as transparent as his beautiful



Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Gonzalo Rubalcaba

James Mincin, Jimmy Katz

playing, and his encore, Evans' evanescent "Peace Piece," was as ravishing as the original.

The evening after Thibaudet's matinee recital with Kirchschlager, Cuban jazz pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba played one of the Jazz Festival's most memorable programs at the Herbst, with what turned out to be a pick-up trio. The phenomenally gifted Rubalcaba, whose pianism resembles Thibaudet's in its deft

blend of speed, textural clarity, and musicality, gave the most musically sophisticated performance I've yet heard from him, live or on record. The lion's share of the playing was slow, soft, unflashy, and prepossessingly beautiful — every rhythmic nuance had a matching harmonic component. A pianist who has long since arrived took a major step up, and no one who heard it is likely to forget it soon. ▼

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Bloom in love

Gay subculture revealed in 'The Delta'

by Robert Julian

Lincoln Bloom has a girlfriend; they kiss, go out on dates, and behave like average Southern teenagers. But when he isn't with his girlfriend, Lincoln likes to pick up men in parks and video arcades. His furtive homosexual trysts in motel rooms, automobiles, and boats are the framework around which writer/director Ira Sachs hangs his wonderfully unpredictable new film, *The Delta*.

Like the Mississippi River, which inspires the title, *The Delta* takes a leisurely, meandering route through Memphis, exploring a brief affair between Lincoln Bloom and Minh Nguyen, the immigrant son of a Vietnamese woman and a black American GI. The film opens with Minh getting into the front seat of Lincoln's car for an anonymous sexual encounter. But when the two boys run into each other later at a video arcade, they embark on a brief adventure down the Mississippi in a boat owned by Lincoln's family. It gradually becomes apparent that the differences in their experience and social class make it impossible for their story to have a happy ending.

As a screenwriter, Ira Sachs does not overplay his hand. His minimalist script for *The Delta* is long on inference and short on the kind of talky, soap-opera dialogue that is often found in films about ill-fated lovers. The upper middle-class world of Lincoln and the lower-class immigrant world of Minh only cross because of their shared homosexuality. Sachs wisely chooses to show these two separate worlds with no obvious editorial commentary. Lincoln hangs with his all-white homies, smoking dope, drinking, and living his quiet double life of indolent boredom. Minh hustles tricks in bars, hangs out at a Vietnamese pool hall, and borrows money to get by. By listening carefully to



Shayne Gray in *The Delta*.

Courtesy Ira Sachs

Minh's dialogue, the viewer begins to understand the complexity of Minh's character and the depth of his misery. His banter reflects the well-rehearsed routine of someone experienced in sexual conquests, but Minh's words conceal as much as they reveal.

Shayne Gray assuages the role of young Lincoln Bloom with apparent ease. With his handsome WASP face and attractive body, Gray epitomizes the well-behaved mama's boy — the kind of easy-going guy who brings home all A's, never causes trouble, and is popular within his small circle of friends. Gray's performance here is completely natural and seemingly effortless. Thang Chan, in the more complex role of Minh Nguyen, inhabits his role with equal success. Minh lives on the edge, and you begin to suspect that his strange, disconnected behavior belies a serious personality problem. Chan plays the role with just the right amount of ambiguity, creating a character that is likable but just a bit weird.

Ira Sachs' direction excels at conveying the pace of life along the Mississippi River Delta. With

the able assistance of cinematographer Benjamin P. Speth, he brilliantly depicts a slow-moving world where tedium is paramount and escape is essential. Long, hot days give way to sultry nights, and evening shadows provide not just an opportunity but a mandate for behavior that explodes the humdrum realities of daily existence. Lincoln and Minh seize their opportunity, although their efforts inevitably lead them to vastly different places.

In *The Delta*, Ira Sachs creates a universe where motivations are not always clear and endings are not always happy. Sachs not only portrays the erosion of class distinctions that is common in gay life but also provides a subtle meditation on the conflicts that could easily arise from this superficial social deconstruction. With its loose narrative and ambiguous ending, *The Delta* resonates long after the closing credits, mostly because of the questions it asks, not the questions it answers. ▼

The Delta opens November 7 at the Castro Theatre.

'Delta' director sees himself in protagonist

by David Lamble

In *The Delta*, a powerfully sensual new film about anonymous sex between men in a modern Southern city, a young man's search for erotic adventures has permanent and unexpected repercussions on those he meets. Ira Sachs wrote and directed *The Delta* based on his own painful frustrations growing up as a closeted gay teenager in Memphis, Tennessee. "The film to me was always about consequence," Sachs revealed in a recent interview. "It's about the consequence of being in the closet, of being gay, and how that internal turmoil is both personally damaging as well as damaging to everyone who comes in contact with it."

The Delta tells two stories, one about Lincoln, a horny white teenager from a comfortable background, and John, a working-class immigrant born to a Vietnamese mother and a black GI. On the surface, Lincoln appears to be the all-American teen, complete with girlfriend, extended family, and the all-important car. Late at night, his second life takes over as he searches the cruise route for cute guys.

Like some of the young men in Scott Heim's novels, Lincoln is busy defining himself in the fishbowl of small-town life. Director Sachs, who is 30, admits he's fascinated with "the period of adolescence," which he believes is a period of schizophrenia for everyone. "Not technical schizophrenia," he says, "but a time in which you're living various identities at the same time. You're part of a family, part of a world at school, you have a group of friends. Then in all cases there's usually a very private sexual life, whether it's gay or straight. You're always going off to some car to do something. I don't think that any of those different personalities is ever really articulated — it just happens and you're in the middle of it."

Sachs has a knack for portraying highly charged sexual moments without being explicit or coy. Influenced by Andy Warhol's early films, such as *Blowjob*, Sachs trains his camera on the young men's faces, allowing us to feel more than we see. In the first scene, Lincoln has oral sex in a car; later, he masturbates in his family's bathroom. In both scenes, much is implied but little shown.

"The film is very erotic in

terms of the tension and the subtext of desire. I tried to start the film with a very sexual scene which then gave a tone to the film that followed. But you're always dealing with what can and cannot be shown, what you're able to direct and what you're not able to get out of the actors."

Shayne Gray had just quit a rock band with a national recording contract when he met Ira Sachs in a Memphis roadhouse. Shocked by being offered the lead in a movie, Gray suddenly found himself identifying with aspects of Lincoln's character. Sachs explains that Gray's character is in many ways his own filmic alter-ego, and that it was liberating for him to exorcise ghosts from his own teen years. "If I talk to straight people who knew me when I was growing up," says Sachs, "they're like, 'Did you really cruise and have anonymous sexual encounters? Did you really mean, is it possible?' And you realize that these kinds of things are very foreign to some folks while they're very familiar to others." ▼

The Delta opens November 7 at the Castro. Call 621-6120 for information.

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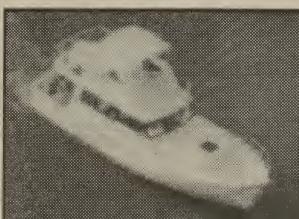
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Untitled, from the project *Evidence*, by Mike Mandel and Larry Sultan.

True crimes

**'Police Pictures'
at SFMOMA**

by Roberto Friedman

Now that photography has entered the pantheon of established fine arts, you can see shows of great 20th-century art photographers at a good number of galleries and museums in the Bay Area. At the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Curator of Photography Sandra S. Phillips has truly distinguished that venue by presenting photography in a convincing new light: her shows have included a sweeping survey of the American West, intriguing selections from the museum's excellent permanent collection, and portraits by Mali photographer Seydou Keita.

In *Police Pictures: The Photograph as Evidence*, at SFMOMA through January 20, Phillips turns our attention to forensic, scientific, surveillance, and criminal investigative photographs. It's a safe bet none of the almost 300 pictures on display was ever intended for museum walls. These images are more likely to appear in nightmares than in the pages of art journals: a night watchman lying dead at the bottom of a freight shaft. The blood-soaked scene of the crime of a grisly double murder in Paris. Career criminal Dutch Schulz shot point-blank in the head over his dinner at a New Jersey steakhouse. Not your typical museum fare.

Coming across cadavers and crime scenes is shocking, and definitely not for the squeamish at heart or stomach. You are jarred out of whatever aesthetic reverie the museum has lulled you into, and find yourself face to face with actual death, whether by state decree (a.k.a. capital punishment), heat of passion, or organized crime.

As shocking as any hangings or gore shots are the photographs of Cambodian genocide victims. The Khmer Rouge slaughtered almost a million people, taking pictures of them as if for some twisted catalog. They're difficult to look at, innocent people, genocide's true face.

If the show includes work by photographers with evil intent, there are also heroes here. Newspaper reporter Jacob Riis used his camera to document the squalid

living quarters of the poor or the dispossessed, such as a splendid photo of a "Bandit's Roost" or a "Chinatown Opium Joint" from the 1890s. Riis the muckraker showed how crime springs out of poverty, at a time when quack criminologists, "phrenologists," were sure that bumps on your head were signs of incipient criminality. *Police Pictures* includes studies of facial expressions purported to be sure tip-offs of malfeasance, and composite photographs made by eugenics enthusiasts Sir Francis Galton of criminal "types" and, wouldn't you know it, Jews.

In fact, there's lots of racism on display. Portraits of plantation slaves were taken for the purposes of Harvard "naturalist" Louis Agassiz, who believed whites and blacks were different species. As Phillips shows brilliantly in this exhibit and in the Chronicle Books catalog which accompanies it, these type of photos as well as mug shots serve the purpose of labeling their subjects "the other." As we've seen in the Holocaust and more recent genocides, you have to reclassify a human being as some other subcategory before you can kill him—or lock her up for life.

Although the show has been in the planning stages for years, its arrival on the scene seems prescient, coming as it does in the midst of global debates over the invasion of celebrity privacy (an oxymoron?) by paparazzi. The exhibit makes clear that today's tabloids did not invent gruesome close-ups in the name of photo-journalism. The front page of a *Daily News* from 1934 shows the shot-up body of John Dillinger. UPI photos display the deaths of "Baby Face" Nelson, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, a row of gangster corpses leaking rivers of blood. The New York crime photographer Arthur Fellig, a.k.a. Weegee, snapped both a fellow nabbed for "susicion of killing a policeman" and a body in the street covered by a sheet, finding beauty and telling urban detail in each.

As you'd expect, queers are not absent from this bloody roll call. Say hello to Ernest Long, *Chief En-*

Calendare, page 54 ►

BOOKS

Broadway and blow jobs

by Robert Julian

Footnotes by Tommy Tune; Simon & Schuster, \$24.

Footnotes, Tommy Tune's new release, is destined to be remembered as one of the most curious memoirs of this or any year. The Marianne Williamson-quoting dancer/choreographer/director emerges as something of a kook in this stream-of-consciousness narrative. As short as it is random in structure, *Footnotes* amuses and occasionally astounds as Tune drops stories of backstage blow jobs and failed love affairs amid sketchy recollections of life in the theater. Now 57 and still recovering from the broken foot that tor-

pedoed his Broadway-bound musical *Busker Alley*, Tune brings a remarkable honesty to memories of a life that began in small-town Oklahoma.

Among his more bizarre recollections are the "cum facials" that Tune and Andy Warhol used to give themselves, and a psychic's contention that Tune is actually an alien sent from another planet — a notion the author feels has "the ring of truth." Tune is frank about his affairs with both men and women, and his preference for same-sex lovers, although the love of his life is revealed to be model/actress Twiggy. Living alone in a Manhattan penthouse with his Yorkshire Terrier, Tune now longs for another relationship, yet confesses he's never been too good at them. ▼

This tall, skinny dancer with the ultimate Peter Pan complex drops quite a bombshell when he reveals that not a "day has passed in the last fifteen years that I haven't contemplated suicide." Suicide apparently runs in the author's family.

Although this thin memoir reads like something tossed off quickly in order to fulfill a contractual obligation to the publisher, *Footnotes* is a charmer. Tommy Tune (his real name) emerges as a sweet, aging adolescent who has danced his way through life armed only with his talent, a love of dance, and (in spite of suicidal tendencies) a generally sunny disposition. His reminiscences, however superficial, reveal someone whom most readers will find endearing. ▼

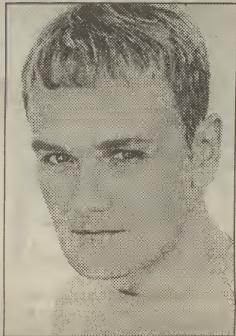
Hollywood high jinks

by Robert Julian

Sex Toys of the Gods by Christian McLaughlin; Dutton, \$24.95

Hollywood has always been a queer locale, but in Christian McLaughlin's latest, the place positively flares. *Sex Toys of the Gods* is a campy, irreverent send-up of the film, music, and television business told from a point of view that is quintessentially gay. McLaughlin fills his farce with lots of big dicks, plenty of sex, and an inside look at Hollywood from the perspective of the underlings and wannabes who serve the masters and mistresses of Tinsel Town.

McLaughlin's protagonist, the twentysomething Jason, is a naive young queer boy who clerks at a video store while fantasizing about hobnobbing with the rich and famous, becoming a success in the music industry, and finding a fabulously hunky queer lover. Since McLaughlin allows all of Jason's dreams to come true, the novel function on its most basic level as a simple case of slacker



Author Christian McLaughlin

Black. Jason and Tricia's lives become interwoven with that of Violet Cyr, an actress who leaves the New York stage and returns home to California. As Edgar Black's client, Violet climbs the Hollywood ladder of success via roles on the daytime soap *Leather & Lace* and a short-lived sitcom about a talking goat, *Chillin' with Billy*.

McLaughlin keeps his parallel

Ultimately, 'Sex Toys of the Gods' is a fun romp that will provide readers with many a laugh when they find that their favorite Falcon opus has already been checked out at the video store.

wish-fulfillment. But McLaughlin redeems the potentially monochromatic nature of the story by surrounding Jason with a quirky set of supporting players and enough subplots to make Danielle Steele turn green with envy.

All-girl bands of the '80s are worshipped beyond reason in *Sex Toys of the Gods* (especially The Pop-Tarts) while Hollywood talent agencies get hit with both barrels of McLaughlin's satiric shotgun. Jason forms an improbable friendship with Pop-Tarts singer Marina Stetson, finally ending up in bed with her closeted stud-muffin husband, Hank Riatta. At the same time, Jason's former roommate, Tricia, toils as the overworked and underappreciated slave of evil talent agent Edgar

plot lines running smoothly, with just enough cross-pollination between the lives of his characters to make sure the reader never gets bored. The author excels in his ability to structure the various stories and keep the pace frenetic. And McLaughlin's abundant references to current and past Hollywood totems practically constitute a Who's Who — and who used-to-be who — of the entertainment pantheon. The resulting tone of the novel is extremely goofy, sort of like a Jose ("Shake-your-head, darling") Eber reading of *King Lear*.

In the annals of queer farce, McLaughlin does not quite mount Olympus (if you'll excuse the expression). He never reaches the brilliantly lunatic level of Joe



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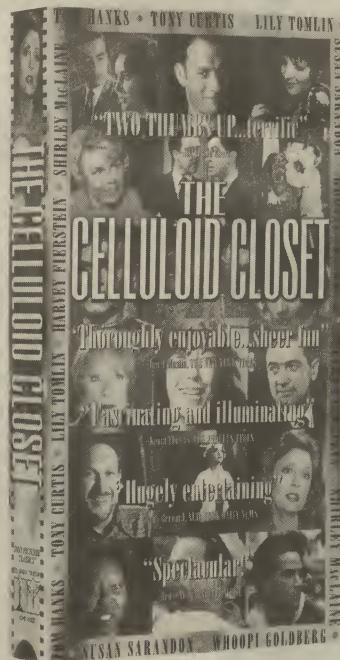
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Letting it all hang out

'Naked' carves niche in a crowded market

by Wayne Hoffman

At first glance, *Naked* magazine seems easy enough to categorize. A muscular man is stripped to the waist on the cover. Reader-submitted stories titillate with tales of nude UPS delivery men, forest rangers, and subway encounters. Erotic photographs of men are peppered throughout the publication, and nobody is wearing any clothes.

But *Naked* isn't a porn magazine; in fact, its editors deliberately steer clear of most explicit sexual content. Instead, *Naked* is a magazine "for men who like to get naked." As the largest publication serving the booming gay naturist scene, *Naked* is riding a major gay trend and carving out a new space in gay publishing.

"Unfortunately, it's caught between lifestyle publications like the *Advocate*, *Out*, and *Genre*, and the porn section," says editor Robert Steele, who notes that some stores place the magazine next to the *Advocate* on the newsstand, while others keep it behind the counter. "We are a lifestyle publication, but it's a niche of a niche. The average guy who unpacks magazines in a bookstore doesn't know where to put it. He sees a naked body, he immediately assumes it's porn."

Maintaining the line between a magazine filled with naked men and a porn magazine requires some maneuvering. Models in *Naked*'s photographs don't sport erections or engage in sexual contact, and the news and short articles included are non-sexual as well. But much of *Naked*'s content is supplied by readers, including the stories and the extensive personal ads with accompanying snapshots. While there aren't strict rules about editorial control, *Naked* does recommend that personal ads feature non-sexual — that is, full-body, non-erect — photographs, and the magazine does edit explicit sexual content out of submitted stories: they can still refer to sex in passing, but not in lengthy descriptions.

"In the stories, we try not to dwell on sex as much as the stories themselves," Steele says. The stories typically recount adventures about being naked at work or in public, and are generally rated once Steele has edited overtly erotic passages. "It is not the real goal to be a titillating description of a sex act. We cut a lot of it."

It might seem that *Naked* would have a hard time finding an audience, being too tame for erotic tastes but too risqué to read on public transportation. But in the five years since it launched as a 'zine, *Naked* has grown into a full-color glossy with a print run of 20,000, a third of which goes to subscribers. Apparently the publishers have tapped into a previously untapped market.

Indeed, the growth of *Naked* coincides with a dramatic in-

crease in the number of gay men participating in naturist groups and events. Since the magazine's debut, Steele estimates that the number of gay naturist groups has doubled — to over 100 — and membership has quadrupled. Some groups are large and active, holding regular parties and events, while others are smaller social networks spread across large distances. These groups have created an audience for *Naked*, which in turn helps gay naturists keep track of organizations, venues, resorts, and events.

The largest such organization in the country is

into the groups, contrary to what many outsiders think. What's important, he says, isn't how men feel about being naked before they go, but how they feel about it once they get there. Being naked can be liberating, and it changes the way men act toward one another, socially and sexually.

"There's a whole different way of being when you're naked," says Wiebersch. "It's not about how you present yourself, it's about being comfortable in who you are."



Gay Naturists International, with offices in San Francisco, GNI holds an annual gathering of gay naturists every August. This year's event — a week-long naked camp-out in the Pennsylvania Poconos — will draw 800 men from across the United States and abroad. Numbers like that are testament to the burgeoning gay naturist movement.

Terminology in the groups can be confusing, with words like naturist and nudist being used as if they were interchangeable expressions. While the terms overlap and coincide, there are distinctions.

"Frequently they're used interchangeably," says Ed Wright, manager of GNI's office and director of the annual gathering. "The word naturist implies that the person has a sense about the environment and nature as a wonderful experience, and that we're a part of that as human beings. A naturist may have some democratic views about getting rid of status symbols, and an outlook that body parts are not to be ashamed of. A nudist primarily just wants to go without clothes, and many don't give much thought to the larger picture. For naturists, it can become a larger philosophical, almost religious, point of view."

Sean Wiebersch, a New York-based sexologist, first discovered gay naturists last year, and he'll be heading off to GNI's gathering for the second time. He goes on enthusiastically about the parties, the disco, the contests, and the surprising number of accessories naked men manage to wear. He talks about reading poetry by the lake, decorating his cabin, and making new friends. He also remarks on the simple sensuality of a naked retreat, noting that while sex is one part of the naturist's world, it's not what brings people

While clothing is imbued with class status and issues of personal presentation, stripping clothing off doesn't mitigate these concerns altogether. The buff torso on the cover of *Naked*, the young hunks in the ads for nudist gay resorts, and the text of the magazine's personal ads all point to persistent body image hierarchies, even as naturist groups decry them, claiming that every body is beautiful. As gay naturists gain more attention and larger, less philosophical constituents, there is a danger that the standards of beauty they have strived to avoid will encroach on their imagery and cultural ideals.

"It's the same story: the cute ones get the attention, and the ugly ones get lost," says Wright. "We try to do a little better. It's not a point of discussion, but under the surface, the men are doing a lot of mental work whether they're gorgeous or average looking."

Wright says that while *Naked* might need cute boys to sell magazines, the actual groups that *Naked* helps to bring together don't need to buy into body fascism, because they're not selling anything.

"It's not a business, it's a movement," says Wright. "A movement that's growing and developing."

Besides, naturists see the human body as beautiful and natural, not as a commodity to be ranked and rated.

"A friend asked me after last year's gathering, 'Were there people there you didn't want to see naked?' Well, no, because everybody's there because they like being naked," says Wiebersch. "It's about a state of being as much as what you're seeing, and it's about seeing the whole, not some gorgeous body. You can see some gorgeous body anywhere. It's more about gorgeous beings, and the beauty of someone who's free enough and comfortable enough to be themselves."

BOOKS

Unearthing lesbianism

by Linnea Due

Dry Fire by Catherine Lewis; W.W. Norton (1996), \$21

Aquamarine by Carol Anshaw; Simon & Schuster (1992), \$10

A Stone Gone Mad by Jacquelyn Holt Park; Random House (1991), \$20

Bending at the Bow by Marion Douglas; Press Gang (1995), \$14.95

Publishing with a major house can be the kiss of death for lesbian-themed novels. For instance, although my novel *Give Me Time* came out from William Morrow in 1984, it wasn't until '86 that reviewers in the gay press were marveling, "Hey, there's lesbians in this book!" — after the book had disappeared from the shelves. Perhaps this is why I've made it my mission to unearth hidden treasures from the majors: hidden, that is, from those of us who stick only to offerings from lesbian and gay presses. It's true that with my method — read everything I can get my hands on — lesbian content isn't guaranteed, but I do find dykes in unexpected places.

Witness Catherine Lewis' 1996 novel *Dry Fire*. Despite a dopey jacket quote from Rita Mae Brown which publisher W.W. Norton probably thought would give people a clue, most gay and lesbian booksellers have never

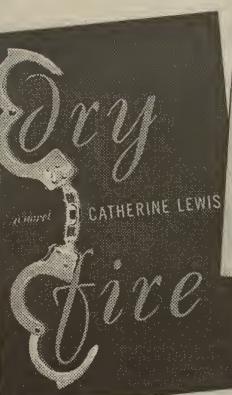
heard of it. That's unfortunate, since the protagonist of this multi-leveled novel is a lesbian paramedic in North Florida who decides to become a cop, thus unwittingly ending her relationship with her police sergeant girlfriend, who fears exposure and harassment from her colleagues. We join a newly single Abby in the Academy, where she's knocking heads with her fellow rookies and learning the fine points of collecting blood samples and driving fast. Abby has spent her life cleaning up the mess that humans can make of themselves and each other; she discovers that becoming a cop means that while she's still a janitor of the human spirit, she's now got the power to make her own mess. This is a beautifully written, fast-paced novel about a woman forced to become active in her own life; whether that means diving headlong toward self-destruction or self-actualization is touch-and-go. A gritty hot-as-tar Florida setting, peopled with the possessed and the determined, brings the paradoxes of Abby's struggle sharply into focus.

You can hardly call Carol Anshaw's *Aquamarine* unknown. It won the 1992 Carl Sandburg award for fiction, has jacket quotes from nearly everyone, including a marginally less stupid Rita Mae Brown remark than *Dry Fire*'s, and Anshaw this year published another book, *Seven Moves*, that is actually in gay and lesbian bookstores. How come then nobody's read *Aquamarine*? True, the book has a gimmick — at the

1968 Olympics in Mexico City, two girls have a brief affair, and one, the American Jesse, lets Australian Marty beat her for the gold medal. Jesse's love-struck letters after the Olympics go unanswered, and she reluctantly comes to the conclusion that she was

manipulated into losing the biggest race of her career. She is left to pick up the pieces of her life — or lives, for *Aquamarine* fills in the canvases of three different Jesses 22 years later. In the first segment, Jesse has married best friend Neal and runs cave tours in Missouri; in the second, she left her home state years earlier for New York, where she lives with a soap opera actress named Kit; in the third, she's a swimming coach in Florida with a problem son.

I don't mind this particular gimmick, because thinking about where we might have ended up had we taken this path or that is something nobody can — or should — resist. It keeps us open, keeps us conscious, and this is exactly what *Aquamarine* does, tun-



ing us into the nuances of possibilities and multiplicities of

response to betrayal and loss. The only sour spot for me was at the end — Anshaw seemed to think she had to tie the novel up with an unlikely visit to Marty in Brisbane that I couldn't imagine any of these Jesses making.

Next we come to *A Stone Gone Mad*. This one's from Random House, published in 1991. It's not an easy read, especially for those of us filling up and spilling over the half-century mark. Emily comes of age in the '50s, figures out she's queer at 16, and begins a trek through self-denial, self-hatred, and other destructiveness, with shrinks as her mentors, that lasts for years. I had forgotten some of the more egregious shrink-speak about lesbianism; here all is laid bare in gory detail. There are also depictions of those stomach-wrenching moments

when, on a night studded with stars, you lean over to kiss your swoony best friend and watch the horror spread across her face. Or boggle as the pom-pom girl you just spent a riotous night with accuses you of ruining her. Recapture the past or learn some history

with this book. Marion Douglas' *Bending at the Bow* seems not to belong to this group — it's from a small company, the Canadian Press Gang, and it's carried in the usual places. Still, few seem to have read it, possibly because of the subject. "Oh, her lover dies," say my erudite friends. "It must be really sad." Yes, really sad, also really funny — in fact, downright hilarious in spots as our heroine haltingly moves out of withdrawal to rediscover the pitfalls of love, sex, and friendship. Pretty much everything comes in for lampooning, including death, adultery, twelve-step programs, a variety of spiritualities, and revolutionary politics. This bittersweet book will have you shaking your head even as you're laughing out loud.

So while we all want to support gay and lesbian publishers, do occasionally go prospecting in another stream. There's gold in them morsels. ▼

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Of jet-setters and wanderlust

by John Blanco

It was only a matter of time before the '60s-obsessed Action Plus got around to paying musical homage to its idol, Burt Bacharach. "Bacharach," the centerpiece of *Wanderlust*, the San Francisco band's second album, is a gorgeous tune that manages to capture the shimmering melodic mood of romantic despair that is at the heart of the best Bacharach/Hal David collaborations. In the song, a Bacharach tune on the radio comforts a lovesick man, but he is reminded that "when the song is done, you know you're still alone." "Bacharach" expertly conveys longing not just for an ex-lover, but also for a past era in pop music.

Burt Bacharach is just one of the many urbane '60s pop-smiths who have inspired Action Plus. During a recent interview on radio KUSF, the group's guitarist/songwriter Joe Gore took over the controls to play a stack of CDs by composers — Serge Gainsbourg, Ennio Morricone, and Jacques Brel, among others — he feels have had a marked influence on his band. What all these songwriters have in common, said Gore, "is the contrast between light, airy, easy-listening textures and darker emotional undercurrents." It's a contrast



Action Plus, with Joe Gore, far right.

Paul Haggard

clearly evident in the songs on *Wanderlust*.

Gore spent much of last year on a world tour as a guitarist for P.J. Harvey, an experience that no doubt provided fodder for the many songs about travel he co-wrote with Action Plus vocalist Ursula Blind for *Wanderlust*. The album's subtitle, *Songs of Adventure and Disappointment*, characterizes the dark mood of many of the travel songs, such as "Jet" and "Nothing to Write Home About." But the lyrical ennui of these tracks about the jaded jetset is wisely countered with lush pop melodies.

The light/dark dynamic of

Gore and Blind's songwriting is best exemplified in the album's white-trash-on-the-run saga, "Nonstop to Nowhere." *Wanderlust's* most exciting and ambitious cut, "Nonstop to Nowhere," features abrupt shifts in tempo and mood, from sugary and feather-light choruses to snarling verses. But what is perhaps most significant about the track is that on an album full of permutations of '60s lounge, erotica, and spy-movie music, the wholly original "Nonstop to Nowhere" isn't a "take" on anything. For anyone who was tempted to dismiss Action Plus as mere novelty retro-rockers, this song should change their mind. ▼

Book fest '97

by Deborah Peifer

When I was preparing to move to San Francisco many years ago, I mentioned my destination to a bookseller. His eyes lit up, and he told me that San Francisco was the best place in the world for people who love books. He was so right. Coming up this weekend is yet another proof of our romance with the printed word, the eighth annual San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival. Oh, this is a treat for the readerly soul.

The festival hosts more than 330 publisher, bookseller and multimedia exhibitors. This is your chance to tell a mainstream publisher's trade rep, or in the case of smaller houses, the publisher herself or himself, just what you think about their last offering. Artisans give traditional bookbinding demonstrations. If you are a writer as well as a reader, publishers lead seminars in how to get that great American novel from hard drive to hard cover. Readings take place throughout each day, and you can get your favorite author to sign your favorite book.

In addition to all this great stuff, an army of writers appear on panels covering everything from "The Body Erotic" to "Puppy Love." Various queer writers are represented, including Lesléa Newman (*Still Life With Buddy*), Jess Wells (*Lesbians Raising Sons*), Jill Posener (*Nothing But the Girl*), Tim Miller (*Shirts & Skin*), and Felice Picano (pictured, *House on the Ocean, House on the Bay*).

Perhaps most exciting for us raged bibliophiles is the collection of readers who turn out for this festival. If, like me, you worry about the demise of the printed word, the sight of all these readers and writers will do your heart a world of good. Oh, yeah, and you can buy books, too, direct from the publisher or sometimes direct from the writer. Don't miss this celebration of what we love the most: reading.

The festival is located at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 7th or 8th at Brannan, and runs November 8-9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entrance fee is \$2 per day for adults. For more info, call 908-2833, or check out the Web site www.sfbbook.org. ▼



Felice Picano

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to dpeifer@delphi.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Out and in control

by Tavo Amador

Flight Dreams by Michael Craft; Kensington, \$19.95

Add Michael Craft to the illustrious pantheon of gay and lesbian mystery writers that includes Joseph Hansen, Katherine Forrest, Michael Nava, Mary Wings, Sandra Scopettone, R. D. Zimmerman and Mark Richard Zubro, among others. Craft's first Mark Manning mystery, *Flight Dreams*, has just been published, and I'm now eagerly awaiting the second installment.

Mark Manning is a highly regarded journalist for a leading Chicago newspaper who sets out to solve the mystery surrounding Helena Carter, a local heiress who disappeared nearly seven years earlier. She was a deeply religious woman and a well-known breeder of Abyssinian cats. She's also on the verge of being declared legally dead, with her \$100 million estate

to be divvied up between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and an organization of cat breeders.

A rival newspaper insists that Helena Carter has been murdered and points the finger at a hired hand working on her estate. Manning interrogates him and other suspects, including the heiress' sister and her parish priest. The latter is handsome and extremely receptive to the good-looking Manning.

Yet another twist in this intriguing yarn is that the 39-year-old Manning is finally coming to grips with his homosexuality. *Flight Dreams* is a coming out story as much as a mystery, and it succeeds superbly on both levels.

It doesn't hurt that the book fairly crackles with erotic suspense. When Manning meets Neil Waite, an openly gay architect, at a party, the sexual tension mounts. Neil and an Abyssinian cat inadvertently provide the key that leads to solving the mystery of Carter's disappearance.

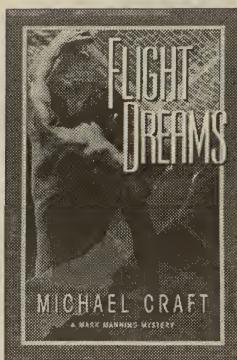
One of the best things about *Flight Dreams* is the lack of hysteria surrounding Manning's coming out. He's uncertain about acting on his feelings, but acknowledges them to himself and to Neil. When he does let himself go, he behaves responsibly while enjoying the sexual pleasure that had eluded him in the past. But the physical is linked closely to the emotional, which makes satisfying adult reading, not to mention a wholesome celebration of male sexuality.

Craft writes in the third person, present tense. It's an unusual gambit, but it lends the story a compelling immediacy. You want to know what really happened to Helena Carter and what will happen next. The author's handling of Manning's dreams is also well-done. He conveys what it would feel like to fly, to float above the world and still be part of it. The dreams are vivid and thankfully free of psychobabble.

Flight Dreams is about mature

people, people who are growing and not confined to a perpetual state of arrested development. The novel is romantic, erotic and comic as well. The plot unfolds in unexpected ways, but the resolution is plausible and welcome.

At the end of this mystery, Mark Manning has solved two mysteries - his own and Helena's - and found the emotional and sexual fulfillment his previously placid life lacked. After years of flying on automatic pilot, Manning has taken control of his plane. ▼



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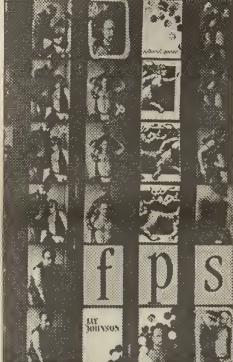
by Dan Blue

Frames Per Second: The Collected Poems of Jay Johnson; Off-world Press, \$21.99

A Life Underground or Les Jeux Funérailles by Jay Johnson; 3300 Press, \$5

Occasionally in history a fault line slips. Poems buried for decades thrust to the surface, and readers must decide, was this a lucky save, or should we send these back to the archives? In a brave moment, Jay Johnson has published *Frames Per Second: The Collected Poems of Jay Johnson*. Many have not seen daylight for 30 years.

To complicate matters, Johnson's work reflects a tradition which was unfashionable even in the '60s and is virtually extinct today. Neither the formal concerns of John Crowe Ransom nor the glamorous pretensions of Robert Duncan and Robin Blaser (mentors he cites) were exactly mainstream when he was writing, and they seem now to have vanished without a trace. Johnson has



those of *Frames Per Second* fit the spirit of the '90s. They also reflect a single sustained vision, which the earlier anthology could not, and probably present an easier introduction to Johnson's work for the beginner. Over half are sonnets (rhymed 14-liners with five beats to a line), so Johnson hasn't left his roots. Nonetheless, he has at last found his footing in history and with it, I hope, a public. He's a real craftsman. We should all look forward to what he does next. ▼

The results, while narrow, can give subtle pleasure. As Johnson suggests in "Past Reciting History," certain artists work best in a reduced space, where perfection is possible. "Beauty comes in small measures.../Ravel is civilized and keeps out the ugly sounds we would make weeping." Within these confines he produces sensitive work, like the sonnet "Happiness," the fable "Kitsune," and a

The audience for 'fps' will be aesthetes who see poetry as an end in itself, a feat of the imagination.

to create a public on his own.

He is not likely to find it among people who like confessional or political poems. They will run screaming from lines like "Regine stands among glow worms in a green dusk." The true audience for *fps* (as the title appears on the jacket) will be aesthetes who see poetry as an end in itself, a feat of imagination. They will enjoy a line like "The Borgias ate peppered larks for breakfast." They would no more ask what's the point than inquire of a drag queen why she wears dresses. The drag queen analogy is particularly apt because *Frames Per Second* is replete with images of faux furs and frippery. These are pieces Blanche DuBois might have written had she worked at it.

meditation on a cat which concludes, "Grape-green eyed jinni/breed wild enough to wrap a tiger in."

Occasionally in *Frames Per Second*, a harsher poet struggles to come out. We might call this the leather man as opposed to the drag queen, and he surfaces fiercely in *A Life Underground*, a pamphlet of recent work. While *fps* celebrates fabulous surfaces, these are poems of wry disenchantment. Johnson discounts the extravagant claims of lovers. "To tell the truth, the world is more prosaic." In a total change of pace from his earlier book, he confesses, "Nature has little use for the ornamental."

The poems of *A Life Underground* are more accessible than

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Able and willing

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Pushing the Limits: Disabled Dykes Produce Culture, edited by Shelley Tremain; Women's Press, \$13.95

One in 40 people in the U.S. is disabled, which means at least one in 40 queers is also disabled. Far more women are disabled than men, in part because serious debilitating diseases like lupus, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis predominantly afflict women. The queer community tends to think its rhetoric addresses all the "isms" that plague straight society, but the overwhelming response to that theory inherent in *Pushing the Limits: Disabled Dykes Produce Culture* is: abled queers, buy a clue.

As someone who has joined the ranks of the dyke disabled fairly recently, I was eager to read this book. I wanted something to help me in the quest for "adjustment" (how abled folks refer to

the drama of becoming a disabled person). I found the book both compelling and disappointing.

Pushing compels with some powerful writing and a strong and angry introduction by the book's editor, Shelley Tremain. But the title and subtitle are somewhat misleading—limits aren't pushed here, and the culture inherent in this anthology isn't as expansive as the editor leads one to believe. Nevertheless, there is so little written information available on being queer and disabled that I recommend *Pushing* because this aspect of the queer political dialogue has yet to be addressed.

The book's 34 contributors are mostly Canadians, with some well-known Americans included: the late Audre Lorde, Pat Parker, disabled activist Connie Panzarino, and lesbian poet Barbara Ruth. Tremain has been carefully inclusive; racial diversity matches the range of disabled experience, which extends to those born disabled, injured in accidents, the deaf, and those living with environmental illness or cancer. Where I would have appreciated equivalent diversity is in the "culture" presented. Much of the work here is poetry, some of it quite evocative (Barbara Ruth, Mary Frances Platt, and Patrizia Tavormina), but most is of the calling-out variety. There are a few songs and some journal-type pieces. The more essay-like work, such as the very strong piece on deafness by Vicki D'Aoust, Kathleen Rockhill's prose/journal piece describing her "recovery" from a hideous and paralyzing car wreck, and the excerpts from Lorde's cancer journals rivet the reader's attention while also addressing some of the complexities of living

as a disabled dyke. I wanted more of this complexity and would have traded much of the poetry for some strong fiction.

Tremain's introduction alone, however, is worth the price of the book for its concision and refusal to be anything but furious about the hellish way disabled dykes are treated by abled society, straight disabled society, and the queer community. Tremain centers the discourse on disabled dykes, and her polemic is as succinct as it is defining. Despite its flaws, *Pushing* raises consciousness about who and what disabled dykes are. Read it. ▼

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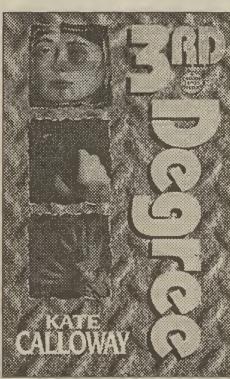
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Lesléa Newman

Mary Yazzie

Parting glances

by Deborah Peifer

Still Life with Buddy: A Novel Told in Fifty Poems by Lesléa Newman; Pride, \$9.95

Every time I think I have experienced the complete range of Lesléa Newman's gifts as a writer, she offers something so new and extraordinary that I am forced to reevaluate. *Still Life with Buddy* is the tale of a friendship between a lesbian and a gay man, and the ways in which AIDS has affected them. Told in 50 poems, Buddy's life, and hers, are entwined in powerful, funny, and life-affirming ways. In the course of some 70 pages, we get to know this wonderful man, and we mourn with her as we share in his painful and untimely death.

The poems are remarkable, each one using a different style to approach an ineffable emotion. "366 & Counting" is starkly simple: "someone told me/you only cry/every day/for the first/year/she was wrong."

Still Life With Buddy is not unrelenting sadness, though, because Newman paints a loving portrait of her beloved friend. In "Once Upon a Time," we learn: "Buddy wore a watch/with no hour hand/no minute hand/just a second/hand that swept/round and round/his wrist endlessly." When I said to Buddy, "What time is it?" he always answered, "Now."

Newman tells us that although Buddy "may be an angel now, [he was] never, ever a saint," an attitude toward her subject that saves this work from the dangers of sentimentality. Her rage at her friend's death, and the deaths of so many others, is palpable and painful. *Still Life with Buddy* is a beautiful and loving story of friendship, one that I will never forget, nor, I suspect, will you. ▼

A portion of the author's royalties will be donated to organizations providing direct services to people with AIDS. Lesléa Newman will read at A Different Light Bookstore on Friday, November 7 (7:30 p.m.), and at North Light Books, 95 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa, on Monday, November 10 (7 p.m.).

3rd Degree by Kate Calloway; Naiad, \$11.95

I guess the good news is that *3rd Degree* is infinitesimally less bad than *2nd Fiddle*, which was somewhat less horrid than *1st Impressions*. At this rate I can expect a novel from Kate Calloway that doesn't make my teeth hurt somewhere around *32nd Freeman*. In the meantime, however, we still have *3rd Degree*, an appropriately named novel because reading it was sheer punishment.

Someone is terrorizing the women of Cedar Hills. He breaks into their houses, ties them up, and does ugly things (but not rape). Then he steals something from the house and disappears.

And the something is related to each woman's darkest secret, so, of course, she can't possibly go to the police. Instead, one of the women goes to Cassidy James, the astonishingly inept dyke dick of the earlier novels, who sets out to find the creep by running an ad in the local paper asking other terrorized women to come forward.

Let's think about this, shall we? We have lots of women, each with a dreadful secret she is willing to keep, even at the risk of her life. Is she likely to respond to a newspaper ad? And the secret must be known to the intruder because he knows what to steal in order to keep them quiet. If the intruder knows about all these disparate women, how much of a secret can it be?

Calloway continues to write flat characters in unbelievable situations, and in her third novel she has already run up against a serious credibility problem. Are we to believe that a town so small that everyone knows everyone else by name could sustain the number of murders and other horrors that have already been described in the earlier novels? Call it the Jessica Fletcher problem. I always won-

INTERVIEW

Tim Miller

◀ Arts cover

that piece for Patrick Merla's book [*Boys Like Us*]. It was the first time I'd ever really made a whole show that was around one narrative, a 48-hour period of my life when I was 18 and coming out and having sex. So I think these pieces, these highly literary solo performance works I've been doing, helped me dive more into the writing, getting more specific, and hopefully a little more nuanced and honest with all this stuff.

So it's been an evolution toward the act of writing, finding the power from the written word?

Yeah, I think the impulse for the pieces has become more about the act of writing rather than "Oh, I want to do this theatre image." Writing is such a sustaining, soul-feeding kind of activity.

In *Shirts and Skin*, you didn't just gather the scripts of your performance pieces — you have created something quite different.

When I looked at my performance works over the last dozen or so years, I wanted to not just create a book of scripts but to pull out the big chronological narrative through-line. Since 1985, I've made these eight solo autobiographical pieces that have been charting, in an idiosyncratic way, my life story. So I've ripped all the pieces apart and rewritten everything, and formed it into a kind of picaresque novel of my adventures. So it's really the stories from the shows and a bunch of new stuff — which I hope make this interesting life journey around being a queer man in the last 20 years.

In *Shirts and Skin*, I wanted to dig deeper into the writing. You have very little time in a performance to make your point. In a 300-page book, I am able to write the stories in a much more detailed way, get more precise with the feelings and images that I am working with. For example, in the comparative roominess of the book, I can enjoy the proper leisurely, literary description of a man's cock as I compare it to a particular curving bit of Interstate 35 north of Austin, Texas, for a couple of paragraphs! Just like they taught us to in creative writing in high school! It's fun.

The book deals a great deal with sex and relationships. This seems to be the new frontier for gay men in the '90s.

In my life, sex and love have been the site of my greatest learning and change. I have discovered a lot about myself through the sweaty sex places I have gone to. *Shirts and Skin* is really a tribute to the men who have journeyed with me, fought with me, fucked with me. I have tried in this book to chart the shifting ways I have intimately related to other men in my life. The book is a lot about relationships and what we call them and how we create them and define them.

The last chapter of *Shirts and Skin* is the most revealing, where the book goes into your current relationships with writer Doug Sadownick and Alistair McCartney, a young performance artist from Australia. They're both in your life today. It gets into the whole struggle gay men have about defining our relationships. "First lover," "Ex-lover," "Current lover."

This final chapter doesn't have the distance in time that much of the other work has. It was the hardest part to write. *Shirts and Skin* ends with the story about my situation in the last three years where the old model of my marriage with Doug — with lots of men on the side — no longer worked for me. I feel like I've entered a time that is more sober and complicated. A time where I am more deeply in relation to myself at the same time I'm in two different relationships: my changed yet ongoing 15-year connection with Doug and my relationship the last three years with my boyfriend, Alistair.

The final chapter in the book is also called "Shirts and Skin," which is about this very bizarre coincidence that happened when I met Alistair in London. He was wearing the exact same shirt that was Doug's favorite, a most consecrated shirt portraying the Jewish Kabbalah. I've only seen two of these shirts in my life, and it was Alistair's favorite shirt as well. I have been in a relationship firestorm these last years that has really challenged and changed me.

Today, we all three do our laundry at my house, and so often these shirts are right next to each



Tim Miller performs a solo show based on his book *Shirts & Skin* at the New Conservatory Theatre, November 7-23. Call 861-8972 for tickets and information.

So after the book and the tour, will there be more writing?

Yeah, I'm working on another book, without having the burden of telling my life story. It's a novel with a real limited time span and thinly veiled "fictional" characters. I also teach a lot. I'm a professor at Cal State Los Angeles and still the artistic director at Highways [a performance space in Santa Monica]. Alistair and I are also working on a performance duet called *Carnal Garage* that premiered in San Francisco last spring. It's full of great physical performance stuff like burning body hair and hooking our cocks together with battery jumper cables.

It's good to know we haven't lost the Tim Miller naked body shock theatre.

No, no. It may just be dawn-ing. ▼

Tim Miller will read from his latest book on November 8 at the San Francisco Book Festival, and November 9 at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Conspirator Payne

Police Pictures

◀ page 46

gineer on the Steamship Rose City, Was Arrested for Impersonating a Woman, who is photographed for police files wearing a tasteful veil, fur-collar wrap, spider web stockings, and pumps (circa 1910-35).

Anyone who may have been produced into paranoia overdrive about governmental surveillance by Wim Wenders' brilliant but flawed new film *The End of Violence* need look no further than the photographs from actual FBI surveillance included as part of the show. Photos taken by the FBI of a demonstration at the Stanford Research Institute identify protesters by circled faces, numbers, and certainly, resulting FBI files.

The photographs betray a government mistrustful of its people. Linked with the Harvard scientist's anthropological studies of slaves, and the phrenologists' racial stereotyping by physical appearance, a dismal pattern emerges. These pictures were taken as evidence that their subjects — criminals, dissidents, ethnics — were not subjects at all, but objects: of oppression, suspicion, even bodily subjugation.

In this strange universe of violence and mayhem, a stoic museum protocol prevails. In lending their photos, "the FBI was extremely cooperative, I must say," Phillips attested at the media preview. The show even includes a photo of über-closet case FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, standing at his desk with his date, Clayton Moore, who wears a Lone Ranger mask. Now there's a gruesome sight. ▼

Police Pictures: The Photograph as Evidence remains on view through January 20, 1998 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street. Call 357-4000 for information.



Composer Laetitia Sonami, one of the collaborators behind *Mona-Lisa*, part of the Other Minds Festival at the Cowell Theater. See Monday.

Fri

Civil Sex

Brian Freeman's meditation on civil rights, masculinity, black gay history, and Bayard Rustin, Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 3&7:30pm thru 11/30. \$18-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235.

Cruising

Glamour Grrrls, Drag Kings and Dyke Royalty stage live stage musical/lipsynch adaptation of 70s leather schlock film. \$10. Doors 8:30pm, show 10pm. CoCo Club, 139 8th St. 331-9595 x300.

Don Bachardy

Recent works by California artist. Reception tonight, 6pm. Thru 11/30. Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Enter Achilles

SF debut of British dance/theatre company DV8 Physical Theatre. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 11/9. \$18-25. Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard. 677-0334.

Evening of Hope

Project Inform benefit dinner and program, keynotes by Dr. Robert Gallo, Dr. Sandra Hernandez, \$125. Western St. Francis Hotel, Union Square. 558-8669.

John McGivern Live

Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

SF Games

The Last Romantics

California OnStage presents James Schevill's play: generational conflicts following WWII. Thru 11/23; call for dates. Tonight at 8pm. \$15. Berkeley Store Gallery, 2230 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 845-2802.

Lesléa Newman

Reads *The Buddy Poems*, a novel told in 50 poems, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Paper Son

Byron Yee's autobiographical solo piece. \$12. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 11/22. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Patricia Nell Warren

Author of *The Front Runner* at fundraising reception for Q-Spirit, free. 7:30pm. Kairos, 2128 15th St. 281-9377.

Peace-A-Chords

John Santos & Omar Sosa, Rebecca Riots and Deborah Pardes, concert benefits internat'l grassroots projects. \$12 advance, \$16 door. 8pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 824-8384.

Pistol Star

Erotic art show includes Vince Gabrielli, Michael Manning, more. Reception today, 6pm. Fri. & Sat. thru 12/18. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.

Same Sex Swing

Beginning lesson, 7:30pm; advanced, 8:30pm; dance, 9pm. \$8 (\$10 w/lesson). Metronome Block Party, 300 DeHaro, 252-9000.

The Last Hairdresser

Doug Holclaw's comic deconstruction of the vicious queen, directed by Danny Scheie. Thru 12/6, call for times, dates and ticket prices. The-

group, free. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

So It's Come To This

Emmett Foster's solo performance: long road to recovery. Thru Sun at 8pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Lesléa Newman

Reads *The Buddy Poems*, a novel told in 50 poems, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

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The Last Hairdresser

Doug Holclaw's comic deconstruction of the vicious queen, directed by Danny Scheie. Thru 12/6, call for times, dates and ticket prices. The-

atre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Mr. SF Bear Contest

Mt. San Francisco Bear Contest, beer & soda bust, \$6, benefits GodFather Service Fund. 3-7pm. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison.

Museum

Vector Theatre Co. presents Tina Howe's comic parody of postmodern art scene. Thurs-Sun. thru 11/15, call for times. Tonight at 6&9pm. \$20. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 421-2VTC.

Patricia Nell Warren

Reads from *Billy's Boy*, free. 8pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Rope the Wind II

Big Band, country-western dancing to City Swing, SF Saddletrempers, benefits Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. \$15. 7pm-1am. SF Russian Center, 2460 Sutter.

Rummage Sale

SF Friends' sale benefits Peaceworkers, other peace groups. 8:30am-3:30pm. Quaker Meetinghouse, 65 9th St. 863-5993.

SF Bay Area Book Fest

Lesbian/gay panels include Printing Queer Words and Publishing Queer Words. Sat. & Sun., 10am-6pm. \$2. Concourse Exhibition Ctr., 7th & Brannan. 908-2833.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC David Mills, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Jeff Stockton

Photography exhibit thru November. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Other Minds Festival

Innovators of contemporary music in concerts. (Tonight: *Mona-Lisa* by Pamela Z, Donald Swearingen, Laetitia Sonami.) Mon.-Wed. at 8pm thru 11/12. \$18. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

Q-Spirit

Lecture series on homosexuality in spiritual traditions. (Tonight: *New Thought*, Mondays thru 11/13. \$5/lecture or \$25/series. 7:30pm. St. Francis Lutheran, 152 Church. 281-9377.

Rauschenberg Uncensored:

"Beyond the Guggenheim Retrospective," class led by Jonathan Katz. Mondays thru 11/24, begins tonight. \$15. Queer Arts Resource, <http://www.queer-arts.org>. 552-8700.

Suicide in B Flat

3rd Set presents Sam Shepard's jazz mystery, with Sean San José, Kelvin Han Yee, more. Mon.-Wed. at 8pm thru 11/19. \$10. Justice League, 628 Divisadero.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadef, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Old Lesbian Artists

Visual artists Nancy Lee and Judith Lindblom show slides, discuss their work. \$3. 2:30pm. Luna Sea Women's Per. Proj., 2940 16th St. 788-6118.

Livedevil

Video, photos and objects documenting artist John Geary's "Devil Tour '94," thru 11/23. Place Pigalle, 520 Hayes. 552-2671.

Opera Lover's

Guide to Europe author Carol Plantamura shows slides, signs books, free. 5pm. Star Classics, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

Recovery & Meditation

An Open House, donation. 3-4:30pm. Hartford Street Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

J'Laim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Making Faces

Make-up master Kevyn Aucoin signs copies of his book. 12:30pm. Rizzoli, 117 Post. 984-0225.

Obsession + Devotion

Ten Year Anniversary Exhibition: Part I includes John

free. 6pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Unreality of Being

Henry Darger's outsider art, thru 11/30. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 975-7755.

David Tuller

Reads from *Cracks in the Iron Closet*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Dybbuk

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents adaptation of the Yiddish classic. Opens tonight, runs Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 11/21. \$18-25. ATJT, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC David Mills, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Jeff Stockton

Photography exhibit thru November. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Outlaw Obsess

Outside Kennedymore. Noon-5pm. \$7. 701 Mission. 922-8232.

Resu

"Art work by Adam Sat. by ArtHa. 7:30pm. Still D Excav Photog SF art arched neath Honor Camer 764-10

Y

Bay A Collaborated tanedala lation painter award- 12 Arts, 1 626-54

Chita & All That Jazz Tony Award-winning Chita Rivera in Broadway-bound show. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/23; call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$22-52. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

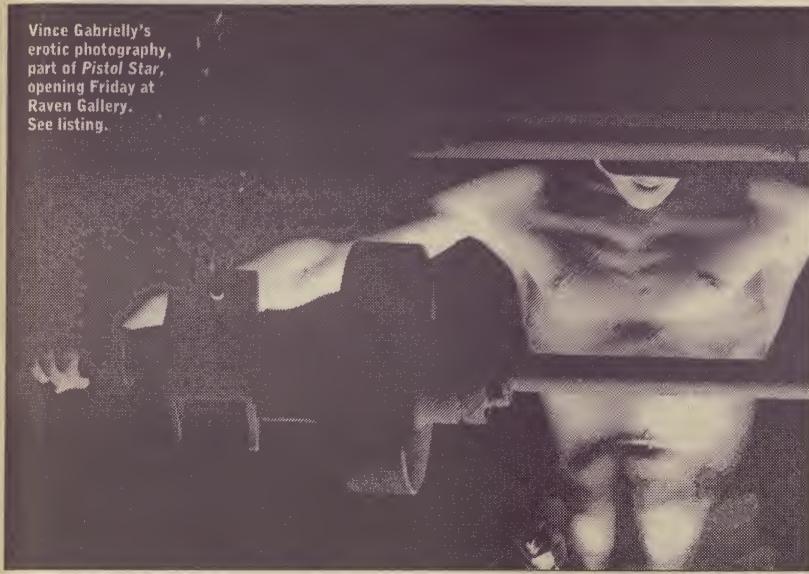
Making Faces

Make-up master Kevyn Aucoin signs copies of his book. 12:30pm. Rizzoli, 117 Post. 984-0225.

Obsession + Devotion

Ten Year Anniversary Exhibition: Part I includes John

Vince Gabrielly's erotic photography, part of *Pistol Star*, opening Friday at Raven Gallery. See listing.



Vince Gabrielly

Cage, Andy Goldsworthy, Brice Marden, Richard Tuttle, more, thru 11/15. Haines Gallery, 49 Geary. 397-8114.

Outlaws and Obsessions

Outsider films and videos by Kenneth Anger, Tom Rubnitz, more. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/30. Noon-5pm. Free with admission (\$5). Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Resurgence:

"Art with a Past" exhibition, work by Andrea Arroyo, Adam Kurtzman, more. Tues.-Sat. by appnt. thru 12/20. ArtHaus, 1053 Bush, Suite 2. 922-8219.

Still Rooms and Excavations

Photographic installation by SF artist Richard Barnes: archeological excavation beneath Palace of Legion of Honor. Free. Thru 11/22. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Wed
12

Bay Area Award Show

Collaborative sculptors Castaneda/Reiman, video/installation team Halfifers, and painter Alicia McCarthy: award-winners' group show, thru 11/15. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Capacity To Enter

Canyon Sam's one-woman show, a Buddhist tangled in webs of desire. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 11/16. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Casey Collins

Singer/songwriter in concert. \$3. Doors 9pm, show 10pm. CoCo Club, 139 8th St.

David Price Weldy

Recent paintings, miniatures; with paintings by Ashley Collins, thru 12/2. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 441-2891.

Dear Liza

Roots rock band from NYC. No cover, 8:30pm. Eleven, 374 11th St. 431-3337.

El Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead altars, thru 2/8. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 97, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Lawrence Schimel

Reads from *Drag Queen of*

Elfand, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Masters of Light:

"Dutch Painters from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thurs. 11/30. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

Norma Yorba

Sculptures from industrial materials; with paintings by Michael Kiernan, photographs by Clint Imboden. Thurs 11/26. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 357-1848, x 14.

A Streetcar Named Desire

ACT's production of Tennessee Williams' classic play on its 50th anniversary. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/23, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$14-51. Geary Theatre, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

A View of Nature

Photographs by Donna Haggerty, thru 11/30. Derek Silva Community Gallery, 1594 Market. 553-8700.

Xibalba

Mobius Operandi's journey to

the Underworld, performance in multidisciplinary installation. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 11/22. \$15. SOMAR Theater, 934 Brannan. 552-2131.

Thur

AIDS Panel

Activists and writers discuss what the mainstream misses. 7:30pm. Media Alliance, 814 Mission, #205. 546-6491.

Alaska Gold:

Life on the New Frontier exhibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Thurs 1/3. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Carmina Burana

Siñini Ballet/SF performs Orff's choral work, with Stravinsky Piano Pieces. Thurs Sunday, call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$25-30. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

Jubilee

42nd Street Moon presents Cole Porter and Moss Hart's 1935 musical. Wed.-Sun. thru 11/16; call for times. Tonight at 8pm, \$18-25. 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Shanti Awards Dinner

Honoring nine Bay Area leaders. \$150. 5:30pm. Gold Ballroom, Sheraton Palace Hotel. 487-4764.

Thinking, Ltd.

Malachy Walsh's cynical comedy about advertising. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 11/22. \$10 (2 for 1 on Thurs.). Venue 9, 252 9th St. 273-1890.

Vampire Dreams

Suzi McKee Charnas's play: a vampire goes into therapy. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 12/6. \$10. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Nina Gold in Gertrude Stein's classic play *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, opening Sunday at Intersection for the Arts. See listing.

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Cal Performances

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AND SUN, NOV 2, 3 PM
ZELLERBACH HALL \$24, \$36, \$48

Performed to live music spanning styles from 16th-century Italian Baroque to 20th-century Impressionism.

PROGRAM: *I Don't Want to Love* (WEST COAST PREMIERE), SET TO MONTEVERDI MADRIGALS; *One Charming Night*, MUSIC BY HENRY PURCELL; *Lucky Charms* (BAY AREA PREMIERE), MUSIC BY JACQUES IBERT; *Grand Duo*, MUSIC BY LOU HARRISON

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Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

Do the hustle

by Dan Blue

After Nirvana by Lee Williams; William Morrow and Company, Inc. \$20

After *Nirvana*, 29-year-old Lee Williams' first novel, deals with Portland hustlers and takes place mostly in toilets, video parlors, and bushes in the park. This may sound like the territory of Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, but Williams is far more graphic and gritty. His punks have runny noses and they

drool. None could be mistaken for Keanu Reeves.

Williams' world is also more dehumanized. His kids inhabit a world of cash and trash, financial transactions, and empty containers. They're not just society's throwaways. Their world exists by throwing things away — by using, then discarding. Big Gulps and Pop-Tarts coexist with A and X (acid and Ecstasy), and no one is far from the black market of interchangeable body parts.

Within this desolate landscape, runaways travel and attempt to discover themselves. A teen

named Davy and his girlfriend join another boy hitchhiking from Eugene to Portland. There, they move in with a flower child and improvise a family. When a gay hustler is drawn into their wake, Davy finds himself attracted to him, and the two collaborate on a porn video.

The video functions as an electronic mirror which opens up unexpected vista inside Davy. Each time he views it, Davy proceeds to a new plane of need and psychic disintegration, eventually unravelling in a couple of horrific scenes of total self-abasement near the

book's end.

Graphic as the book is, readers looking for raunch will probably be disappointed. Though many scenes are explicit, there is little that is overtly erotic in their depiction. In this world, sex is just another thing that happens, and it's usually work-related. Even at climax, these kids consult their watches, listen to music, or, bent over a toilet, observe the way urine churns in a flushed toilet. Such coolness seems strategic. Williams refuses to gild his subject with meretricious glamour, whether it be Keanu Reeves prettiness or pornographic voyeurism. He wants us to experience his world without palliations or distractions, as nakedly as Davy.

Despite their troubles, the kids of *After Nirvana* remain buoyant, almost cheerful. Certainly they don't see themselves as victims. These are gentle creatures who take care of one another when down and make up their world as they go. Williams, who tags be-



hind, notes their discoveries with the freshness of someone catching reality on the wing. He also has perfect pitch for the way his people talk.

The style is highly visual and travels at lightning speed. Indeed, *After Nirvana* moves at such a swift pace readers may race through too quickly to recognize its craftsmanship. At story's end, however, a dark vision lingers, like one of those dreams which can't quite be remembered but which troubles the rest of the day. ▼

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Out There

◀ page 39

our offices when we noticed dangling from the end of our pitchfork a fish wrap from SoCal featuring a Q & A with **Daniel Harris**, author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*.

Mr. Harris used to pen the occasional review for *B.A.R.*, but after he moved from SF to New York and published his first book, we've sadly lost contact with him. So, needless to say, it was refreshing to once again encounter his smart patter in print. But, on the evidence of this little chat, it seems to us that the theory queen is beginning to sound a little more queen than theory. Here are some highlights: "Where do you see queer culture going in the 21st Century?" asked writer **Gabriel Goldberg**. "Down the drain," came the avoidpois-drenched response. In answer to the question "When did camp die?" the author offered up this irony-laden extended metaphor: "Camp is still dying, a protracted and painful death, with life-support systems, dialysis machines and intravenous feeding. It's the longest coma in human history. We'll be sling this corpse around for years to come." Finally, when asked if he's ever being gay, Harris whined magnificently that he is "sick to death of thinking about my homosexuality. I have a lot of other things to do with my life, and I'm not going to let anyone turn me into their role model, a walking, talking piece of propaganda for the cause."

Heed the Law

We were falling asleep in a multiplex the other day — a common occurrence of late — when we were suddenly roused from our slumber by a familiar droning sound emanating from the screen. Our brain befogged with sleep, we couldn't make an instant ID. Was it **Brenda Vaccaro**, **Mercedes McCambridge**, **Rose Marie**? Wrong. When we finally managed to rub the sleep from our eyes, we saw **Gore Vidal**, writer, actor, arch queen, staring back at us



Jude Law

from the screen.

Gore doesn't do much in his new movie, *Gattaca*, save scowl at everyone in sight and look far too big for his improbably tight suit. In fact, he plays a supporting role in the film, a woefully sinister villain who believes in the nefarious goings-on of genetically engineered superclass. Though it's pretty entertaining to see Vidal perform self-parody, he ultimately takes a back seat to his fetching young co-star **Jude Law**, who assumes the role of Eugene, a perfect specimen of the *Gattaca* superclass who becomes an outcast after he suffers a paralyzing accident.

Law is a relative newcomer to the screen, but he's no stranger to unusual or at least demanding roles. New York theatre-queens will remember him vividly as the young beauty in last year's Tony-nominated *Indiscretions*, which featured an eye-pleasing scene in which Law stepped out of a bathtub naked and took plenty of time to negotiate his lithe young bod into a pair of tight-fitting trousers.

Though Law's role in *Gattaca* is merely a supporting one, the next page ►

POPN

Fetish and kink

by John F. Karr

Fallen Angel, Titan Media, 1-800-360-7204

The guys in charge at Titan Media, Bruce Cam and Robert Kirsch, have a simple formula for making porn — locations first, performers second, story third. This three-point plan has resulted in some no-nonsense porn with a strong appeal to guys who want thrills without frills. For instance, they ditched plot altogether when filming the lush *Island Guardian* in Hawaii. A train, a truck, and a hitchhiker provided the bare essentials for the moody road picture *Desert Train*, and with *Naked Escape* the filmmakers certainly did let the bare essentials flop around picturesquely, but the need to fulfill expectations suggested by the title necessarily complicated things.

Titan's newest extravaganza, *Fallen Angel*, shot during the recent IML Conference in Chicago, is at once their most sophisticated and their most densely plotted film. It's a mystery why there was a need for any more plot than the confluence of a couple thousand lit up leathermen, but the resulting video's got a whole lot of it.

In between the video's sizzlingly butch sex scenes, a trench-coated thug pursues an angel with black wings; when he catches the angel, he flogs him. The angel's wings disappear, but he gets them back after engaging in a three-way with the thug and some guy loitering helplessly nearby.

This narrative obviously affects the sex scenes, and my inability to concoct an explanation of how or why diluted the video's sexual frenzy. In search of an answer, I called the Titan offices, and co-director Kirsch graciously explained that the scenario was suggested by Dante's *Inferno*. Oh, I tell you, it's a curse to be an illiterate porn reviewer, and I'm sorry now I didn't read Dante when he was assigned in my college lit class.

"We're told that being in the

leather subculture, we're an angel which has fallen," Kirsch told me. And the character I called a thug, Kirsch revealed, is the "power that releases us from our inhibitions, from convention, and allows us to taste the flesh." In that taste of flesh, the filmmakers see our redemption. You'd peg it as Dante in a flash, wouldn't you?

It's not only leathermen who are being redeemed here. The filmmakers are also trying to shed a less harsh light on certain niches of the leather porn world — fetish and kink. Hence, the contents of *Fallen Angel* are a virtual Baedecker of the bizarre — whipping, spanking, spitting, piercing, tit-clamping, mummification, cigar smoking, dildo-wielding, bondage, and leather sex, all dished up with slick production values and expert videography. While certainly not a video for the mainstream of gay tastes, *Fallen Angel* brings to its scenes of fetish and kink a mainstream sensibility and technical proficiency that make the work by turns wonderfully subversive yet accessible.

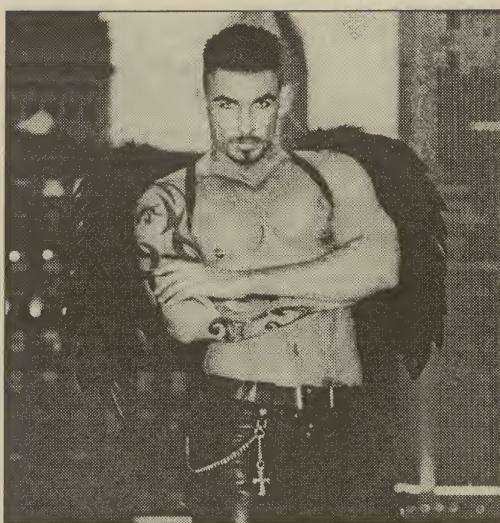
Other qualities distinguish this feature. Chief among them is the rampant, rugged beauty of its men. They are gorgeous, from face and physique to cocks and assholes. And though you might think you'll need hip boots to wade through this much machismo, the cast is unselfconsciously expressive, even in its hyper-masculinity.

More remarkable yet is the romantic attitude the men have married to their mayhem. These are leather dudes who care. Even when doing unspeakable things to their partners they do it with equal parts lust and love. It's pretty unique and pretty potent.

Still, *Fallen Angel* is not without faults. A duo in an elevator is undercut by passengers getting on and off as the elevator stops at different floors. This cute joke quickly turns precious, and then obtrusive. And the filmmakers' fear of overlooking a single leather fetish can weaken the film's impact, most notably in a hot group scene which is needlessly intercut with a

nearby bootblack's affair with a boot. Still, most of the video's sex scenes are imperative viewing. My favorite: rugged daddy Cole Tucker, who makes whimpering a manly act. He's as ferocious a bottom, squatting fiercely on a thick black dildo, as he is top. But I don't know what to make of his knack for blowing cigar smoke across the cheeks of his boy's asshole — what an incomprehensible act!

Fallen Angel is unusually successful in its agenda and sexuality. It also makes good use of the Chicago environs and the visiting men. According to my sources, litigation is pending which may result in the deletion of a flogging and piercing scene. It's not the high point, but if this turns you on, get the video now while it's still uncut. ▼



Steve Cannon, star of Titan Media's *Fallen Angel*.

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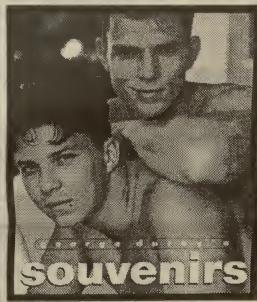
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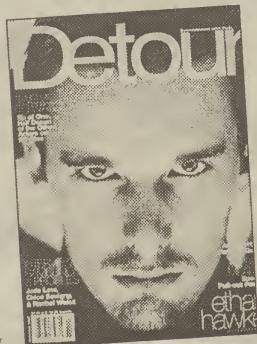
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Out There

◀ previous page

actor is getting top billing in two other projects, both of queer interest. At the moment, he's turning heads in the London production of *Wilde*, in which he plays Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas to Stephen Fry's Oscar Wilde, and in the forthcoming film of the best-selling *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, Law will be featured prominently as Savannah hustler **Billy Hansen** (**Danny Hansford** in the book).

In a recent *W* interview, Law revealed that he has no problem playing outsiders with sometimes left-of-center sexualities. In fact, he thinks himself a natural for such parts because "macho Americans are more closed about their sexuality than Europeans. They're unwilling to experience their feminine qualities."



Statements like that had us wondering if perhaps Law enjoys tea with **Dorothy**. But, alas, the W piece was accompanied by a big photo of Jude with a woman indelately identified in the caption as his "lover."

Take this detour

Finally, have you noticed *Detour* lately? It's really good, especially the November issue. Oh, it's true, there aren't enough

naked-guy photos, but, hey, there's a great pull-out pic by **David LaChapelle** and a wonderfully weird, Cindy Sherman-esque fashion spread by photographer **Michael Williams**. As for the writing, **Jonathan Hayes'** interview with artist **Alexis Rockman** was breathtaking, and it was so lovely seeing erstwhile **B.A.R.** toiler **Brandon "Gabby" Judell**'s byline over those wonderfully acerbic little film blurbs. Reminded us of the old days, woefully sinister thought they were. ▼

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The leather ballerinas' troupe, "Hot to Trotsky," won for best group at the Eagle's Leather & Feathers extravaganza.

Mister Marcus

Fun in Amsterdam and San Francisco

by Mister Marcus

Amsterdam's Leather Pride Week ended last Sunday after a week of activities that culminated with the Mr. Europe Drummer contest on Saturday night. Andy Rose, Bob ("I Never Get Laid") Davolt, Sam Medrano and Doug Stromberg were there, but I dare not mention their shenanigans!

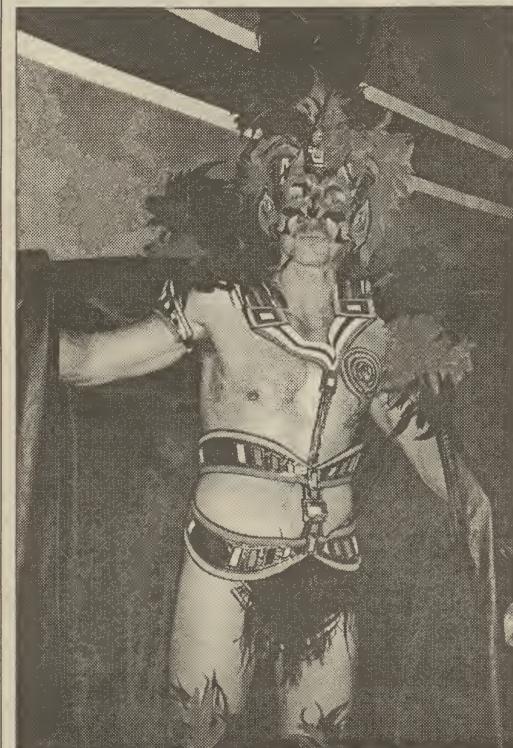
There were seven contestants gunning for the Mr. Europe Drummer title. Without going into all the gory details, be apprised that for the second year in a row, a leather man from France took the title. His name is Herve Bernard. The first runner-up was Patrick Schmidgall of Rotterdam, and the second runner-up was Frank Zubli of Nijmegen (also Holland). I expect to have photos of the winners by next week, so stay tuned and be the first on this side of the Atlantic to see them!

Well, Halloween '97 is history. Another strenuous exercise in exhibitionism prevailed for almost four days, and it seems the crowds just get bigger each year. The Stud got the jump on everyone with their Halloween festivities on Thursday night, Oct. 30. The bar was decorated to the hilt, and I hope the Cable Car Awards committee got to see it. Lots of freaky costumes — and a good time was had by all at the invitation-only event.

Later that same evening, there was a healthy crowd at the Eagle for the annual Leather & Feathers costume competition. Judges Andy Anderson, Beth Downey and last year's In Theme winner, Mischa Kitain, faced two dozen or so costume-clad aspirants for the prize money.

After a parade of leather and feathers, muscles and makeup, the judges made their decision. In the Most Humorous category, Jim Drew won with his "Cat With Nine Tails" outfit. The Best Group consisted of four men as the campy leather ballerina troupe

"Hot to Trotsky." The best In Theme prize was won by a visiting hunk from Switzerland, Markus Naff, attired in gold, black and orange leather with feathers, a truly magnificent costume. There were other worthy contenders, but the crowd and the judges were



Best "in theme" costume at the Eagle's Leather & Feathers Oct. 31 soirée: Switzerland's Markus Naff's sexy concoction.

Mister Marcus

LEATHER SCENE

unanimous in their decisions. Another fun night at the Eagle.

By the time Halloween night rolled around, some of the costumes were more than a little raggedy; nevertheless, the masses poured into the Castro despite the official movement of the action to the Civic Center. (After all, the Castro was free, and they were charging \$5 at Civic Center!) The police were inundated with the bridge-and-tunnel crowd, but the really smart people stayed home and watched it on the 11 o'clock news. E-mail from a friend in Washington, D.C. said the TV coverage of San Francisco's celebration was anything but flattering!

Homo on the range

Daddy's Bar kicked off this week's festivities on Monday and Tuesday with their second anniversary celebration. The surprise of the evening on Monday was when Jerry Roberts was named Daddy of the Year—a well-deserved honor. The anniversary pins were also dispensed on Monday. Due to my deadline, I couldn't get Tuesday's goings-on reported here, but there's always next week!

The Dishcovery Channel

Good things happen to good people, thus it was no surprise to



976 "workers," Miguel, John and friend, were part of the colorful competition at the Eagle.

learn that Roger "R.J." Chaffin of Chicago was inducted into the prestigious Mayor's Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame last week. "R.J." has been involved with the International Mr. Leather productions for many years and currently coordinates the mammoth Leather Mart at each year's event. His list of achievements is enviable, and it's nice to see that he has been

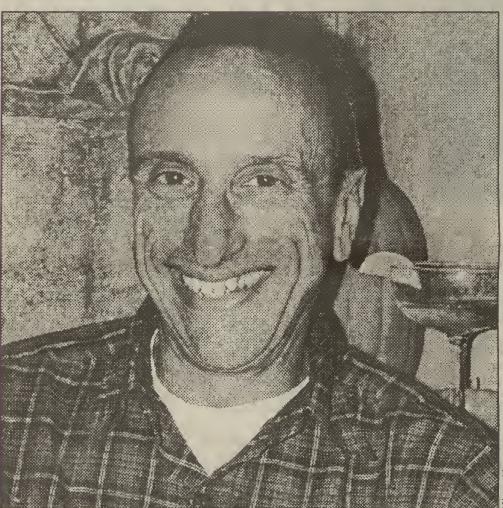
recognized by the powers that be in the Windy City!

Everyone's fave Eagle bartender of the past, Nick Varetakis, was in town last week. You may recall he moved to Nashville almost two years ago and then just moved to New Mexico. Well, Nick is on his way back to Nashville, and stopped in to get some of his belongings and renew old acquaintances. Great sight for sore eyes.

And football fans were in good spirits last Sunday after the 49ers trounced Troy Aikman into submission (I just knew he was a bottom!) to reign supreme in the NFL with an 8-1 record! The Cowboys were so pitiful and didn't look anything like America's Team! Harrumph and double harrumph!

The big country/western dance, "Hoedown '97," is coming your way at the Galleria Design Center on Sunday, Nov. 16. The 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men will host. That cute Andy Shore will be the official "caller" when the shindig gets underway at 1900 and goes until 2300.

Tix are only \$15 advance/\$20 at the door and available now at Does Your Mother Know, SF-Eagle and Image Leather. Naturally, it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, so how could you not attend the biggest CW event to hit this town in many, many moons? I hear the tickets are going fast, so get yours now! ▼



Hard-working Jerry Roberts was named Daddy of the Year at Daddy's Bar's second anniversary party on Monday, Nov. 3.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Nov. 6

Exiles/SF gather at the Lex (3464 19th St.) around 2100 for a free session. Call 487-5170.

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at

933 Harrison from 2030 to 2230. Avail yourself!

Bare Chest Calendar guys signing the 1998 calendar at Daddy's, with a beer bust from 1900 to 2200.

Formal opening of Jim Leff's oils "mostly western" show at the Lone Star Saloon, with a reception for the artist from 1800 to 2100. Jim's paintings are so realistic, you'll be amazed! Check out the oil of Chris Welch, a man with exciting "accessories."

Weekend, Nov. 7-9

Choosing Mr. Palm Springs Leather '97 in Palm Springs over the annual "Sweatin' Bullets" weekend. Mark McKenzie steps down in favor of a new successor. Call (760) 770-7397 or e-mail: tit-pig@mailgate.net.

Weekend, Nov. 8-9

Cal Eagles MC overnight run to the RushRiv, with lodging at the Triple R. Call 267-0560.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Mr. SF Bear Bill Adams ends his year with the title, as the Mr. SF Bear contest gets underway at the Lone Star Saloon this afternoon, 1500-1900. The highly visible and popular Bill did a great job with the title. Don't miss this one!

The '98 SoMa Calendar guys travel to San

Diego's Eagle Bar to sell and sign calendars, and participate in a fundraiser hosted by *Update Magazine*'s leather columnist Zak Topor (also a former Mr. San Diego Leather).

Sunday, Nov. 9

San Franciscans MC hosts the beer bust at the SF-Eagle today. Food, beer, \$8. No details.

Monday, Nov. 10

Lou Duff's rope training, featuring Master Kee in "Weaving the Web," 1800-2200. Call 550-0122 for location and cost.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Been a little dry lately? It's Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, the time and the details. Feel the flow! Call 863-HEAD.

Thursday, Nov. 13

Big Basket auction/contest at The Edge Bar, with a beer bust, Danny Williams and the Old Bag. Action usually starts around 2100. Be there!

STD checkups upstairs at 933 Harrison tonight from 2000 to 2230. Check it out.

Sunday, Nov. 16

The big "Hoedown" at the Galleria is hosted by the '98 Bare Chest Calendar men, with that cute Andy Shore "calling." Tix are \$15 advance/\$20 door and available at DYMK, Image Leathers and the SF-Eagle.

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PARTING GLANCES

Cala Market South Van Ness
Tuesday evening 10/7. We exchanged smiles in check out line. Me: tall, dark mustache. You were with a friend. Drove away in brown car. Want to meet you? ☎ 8501.

Marc Wednesday 10/8/97
We talked all afternoon, my heart beats all day.

Graying Handlebar Mustache
On a slender man with penetrating eyes at the Folsom street fair. We connected, savored the moments and then walked on intrigued to know more. Ron. ☎ 8503.

Twilight in the Grove 10/4
You: Asian in black. Me: Caucasian with shave head and beard with a woman. We eyed each other many times. Please call! Let's talk and meet! ☎ 8504.

6/12 Berkeley Baths
You: Bik, pierced. Me: white, muscle. Loved it. Call me. ☎ 8505.

Tues. Oct. 14 Eros
Your brother couldn't sleep alone after seeing Poltergeist. I don't want to sleep alone after seeing you. I waved to you as I left—too shy to speak. Please call. ☎ 8506.

Eliza Rest. Thursday 10/9
You: blond, wht T-shirt, w/guy. Me: dark hair, gray shirt w/woman. We smiled. Let's talk. ☎ 8507.

Guy Seeks Lost Admirer
You whistled at me Sunday at the Castro fair. I was wearing jeans and a black shirt. Craig. ☎ 8508.

La Vila Poppi 10/18
You: dark hair, w/your sister & parents? Me: dark hair, red plaid shirt, w/friend. I kept turning to see you. Let's talk. ☎ 8601.

Mark Hole in the Wall 10/12/97
Enjoyed your smile and the talk. Would enjoy getting to know—I always have room for new friends. Give me a call—David D. ☎ 8602.

Blow Buddies, 10/25
You great kisser & great body, me the same. A bandage left arm. Would like to embrace you again. ☎ 8704.

Blackbands 10-12 Late Afternoon
G. Serious when I said I wanted to see you. Too shy to give number or kiss. Killed the car. Conversation was great and more! Dinner? M. S8706.

Brady Street Dance Performance
Friday 10/24 I said it was good to see you again—are you free to call me? Gary S 8701

BV Park—Wed., Oct. 15
"C.": We played in a group, then found some privacy. Let's do it again. "D." ☎ 8604.

Daniel & Chloe at Castro Fair
It's been 2 years since we met through ad I placed for same fair. Would love to hear how you've been. Besides, I still owe you breakfast. Call Greg. ☎ 8606.

35 Eureka, 10/21 6:30 PM
You: cap, back pack, shorts. Me: back pack, shorts, boarded @ 18th/Castro. Stood next to each other. Would like to worship you in kinky/raunchy way. S 8608.

RICK MY PLACE 10/26 6:30 PM
You: Beard, grey tee, gym pants w/stripes. Me: S. W.: Discussed PA's, etc. Chance of another encounter? Same time, place, another Sunday? S 8702

10/25 beach blankt babylon
You: Tall WM with Brn hair, blue blazer. Drinking white wine. Me: GBM, Wht shirt, blue pants, smiling at you, wishing I had said Hi. Please call. S 8705

16th st tue eve 10/21
You walked toward Castro. I was with a friend (w/a little dog) and I had Greek hat on. We said "Hi". Let's talk and meet. S 8703

10/23 9PM Market Near Pasta P.
You! Orange Tshirt. Me: Black sweatshirt. I growled to lesbian friend. We both turned & stopped. Lost you in crowd. Still kicking myself. Wanna wrestle? S 8707

You Walked by and Smiled
You short blond hair, trimmed face, beautiful smile. On 15th street at Church. You carried a bag of food walking toward the Mission. Me: horseshoe mustache. You caught my attention big time. ☎ 8745

Zapata Sat (10/18) Noon
Goated flight attendant (?) with friend in ball cap. You sound like what I'm looking for too. I regret not speaking (duh!), you gave me the perfect opportunity. First date? ☎ 8607.

Red Shirt Guy at the Cafe
Saturday 10/19. You: white with jeans and red shirt. Me: Asian, dark jeans, gray V-neck with brown stripe. Exchanged smiles, too shy to talk. Would like to meet you. ☎ 8603.

Noah's Bagels SAT 10/25 1:00pm
You: Cute Asian guy sitting at corner table. Me: GWM, 30's, slim, dark hair, beard, white T-shirt, jeans. Our eyes met—Would you like to talk? ☎ 8750

Robert in Albany NY
Brian we met in Atlanta 6/97. I want to cum w/u again. Brian (Mr. D.J.). ☎ 8605.

Eros 10/24
Terry, I had the most incredible time with you. I asked if this could happen again. You seemed interested, then left quickly. Call me even just to talk (David) ☎ 8757

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Aussie, 25
Brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'8", 150. Easy going but shy. Seeking NS/20-26, guy who loves life & can bring out of my shell. Friendship & maybe more. ☎ 8509.

Fun Handsome White Guy HIV+
Healthy, mentally and physically. Trim and toned, 6', 165, 39+, open honest decent guy—seeks African American man for dating or relationship, similar age, values and self confidence. ☎ 8510.

I SO Latin Top in East Bay
GLM, 30, masc, handsome, with good body. ISO Latin top, should be masc, good-looking, with nice body, between 25-35 yrs. I'm attracted to stocky built men. Hairy a plus. ☎ 8511.

Are You Asian?
GWM, 5'8", 145 lbs., young-looking 40's, handsome, kind, non-smoker, lived many yrs in Asia, looking for handsome Asian under 40, in good shape, for dating & hopefully more. ☎ 8515.

Tall Trim Top
Aroused by power exchange? Safely explore submission with smart, sexy, sane, successful, GWM, 44, HIV+, tall, slender, handsome. Prefer: 30's, attractive, short, muscular, HIV-, no drugs/smokers. ☎ 8617.

GWM + GBM = Power Couple
Me: German student, 27, 150#, 5'10", br;br, slim, gym-toned, wash-board stomach. You: GBM, 25-40, 5'11"+, muscular, work out, shaved head, for friendship or LTR. No fems, no smoke and drugs. ☎ 8615.

Where Are You Boy?
SJ Daddy seeks Bay area boy. 54 yo, WM, 6', 187, very fit, goatee, blue/gray. You are playful, uninhibited, fit; Latin/bik are pluses but all boys should respond. ☎ 8614.

Black Seeks White Boy
I'm 24' 5'10", 160 lbs, handsome, mas, stylish, firm body seeking cut, in shape, Caucasian under 32 who is intelligent, enjoys travel, sports and kissing. Masc guys only. ☎ 8615

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185 lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung Latin man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 8616.

One Last Try For Romance
Good looking regular guy who happens to be gay is looking for his other half. Walks together, talks over coffee, making love til sunrise. ☎ 8617.

Seeking Asians
Attractive WM, 49 yrs, 5'6", 140 lbs, HIV+, seeks younger Asian for friendship or possible LTR. I enjoy sports, movies and quiet times. ☎ 8618.

Muscular Chubby Blonde, Blue..
Top or bottom for: bondage, S/M, role playing and humiliation. 30, 5'10", 225#, masculine, Pisces, rough yet sensitive, intelligent, non-racist, relationship oriented. ☎ 8619.

HIV+ Daddy Seeks Same
GWM, 60, 6'2", 180#, hung, smooth, good body, bottom. Seeks very macho, top 40-60, easy going enjoys life. Now visiting SF but live in Hawaii. ☎ 8620.

Attractive Latino
Good looking Latino, 32yo, brown eyes, dark hair, goatee, professional, looking for GWM between 26-37yo for friendship or more. Like dining out, movies, outdoor activities. ☎ 8621.

Cute Muscular Bottom
Looking for attractive, in-shape experienced top. I'm 30, 5'9", 160, good-looking, muscular, smooth, work out 4X/week, professional. Turn-ons for me: clean-cut, smooth chest, dark hair, outgoing personality, sense of humor. ☎ 8622.

Preppy GAM ISO Preppy GWM

Nice, decent, 26yo guy, 5'8", 140#, smooth & toned, seeks GWM, 22-30. I love outdoors, sports, movies, romance, good values, working out. Please be similar. NSND. ☎ 8623.

Hungry for Love X Romance
I'm 33, Swiss, 160#, 5'9", dark hair, fair skin, masculine. Seeking good-looking, passionate dancer for Club-Under. You: my age about. ☎ 8624.

Looking for Mr. Normal
40, bearish, HIV-, no drugs, not into partying or Castro scene. Animal lover, bright but not scholarly enjoy the arts and life's simple pleasures ISO same. No baggage please! ☎ 8625.

The Attractive Latino 26
I'm 5'7", 165 lbs, muscular and stocky build, college student. I want to meet Latinos or whites under 39 for friendship maybe more. ☎ 8626.

Sonoma Mendocino Co. Resident
Interests include laughing, sharing, gardening, livestock, travel, friendship, family, outdoors, swimming, building a future, a little drink and beer etc... GWM 40' 5'10" 150lbs brn/green attractive. Looking for similar, 1st time ad. S 8708

Wanted: Small Asian Man

White bear, 37,寻求 your cock-sucking cuddler for Sunday afternoon fun at your place. ☎ 8514.

Pacific Islanders Young & Slim
New friends sought by romantic WM, 54 (looks 40's), 5'11", 170, HIV-, NS, brown hair/eyes, handsome, clean shaven city boy, likes cats, scuba, travel, photography, monogamous, LTR possible. ☎ 8513.

Seeking Playmate

GWM, 6'1", slender, 43yo, red/blue, smooth top into butt play (safe only)/massage/JO seeks slim, clean-cut, attractive, GWM under 40 for play and mutual enjoyment. ☎ 8512.

No Particular Requirements

6'2", 185 lb, tall, black hair, brown eyes, 45yo, mustache, fun, horny, passionate, honest, serious, playful, sensitive, romantic. ☎ 8516.

No Way Out Of My Life

Straight acting, straight appearing, jock-boy type top, very sexy and built seeks older guy, good looking, in shape, to spoil me/help me grow/must be submissive. ☎ 8609.

Cute Blond Seeks Dark And

Handsome. If you're an out, stable Italian or Latin (30-38) and can appreciate a cute, white boy who's 30, romantic, sincere, honest, and not into the Castro thing, then call. ☎ 8518.

Where Are You Boy?

SJ Daddy seeks Bay area boy. 54 yo, WM, 6', 187, very fit, goatee, blue/gray.

You are playful, uninhibited, fit; Latin/bik are pluses but all boys should respond. ☎ 8614.

Black Seeks White Boy

I'm 24' 5'10", 160 lbs, handsome, mas, stylish, firm body seeking cut, in shape, Caucasian under 32 who is intelligent, enjoys travel, sports and kissing. Masc guys only. ☎ 8615

23 YO GLM

Attractive intelligent 5'6" 155 lbs not looking for a one nighter. Very worth it. Looking for companionship with potential for more. You: attractive, secure 20 something. Serious only. ☎ 8713.

Muscle Freak

You: thin or muscular, defined physique, 25-45 yrs, like to get fucked, service dick, flex and show off. Veiny arms and/or no fat abs are pluses. Relationship oriented. Call! I'm HOT. S 8714.

A Gentleman & An Animal

Handsome, intense, fun-loving East bay GWM, 41, Moustache, %10', 170#, Br/Bi, HIV-. Seeks sex with friendship, intimacy and possible romance with single man. Dominant top, versatile for right man. ☎ 8717

Seeking Buddy Friend Lover

GWM 35 5'10" 165# Inshape HIV+ clean-cut professional. Masculine versatile handsome(so said) into outdoor activities. Seeking same for man-to-man relationship. ☎ 8719

Interested in Dating?

Anyone at all? Masculine, attractive looking for same, preferably someone dominant for friendship, dating. I'm 33, 175#, work out, sexy. ☎ 8720

Attractive Latin Man

37 yo, 5'11", 152#, black hair/eyes, HIV+. Looking for: GWM blonde, blue/green preferably, not necessary, tall, fit, nice humor, positive attitude. I like movies, gym, dinners and am versatile. ☎ 8715

Is a LTR on Your X-Mas List???

I'm looking for someone who'd like to share the romance of the holidays together. Me! GWM, 37 6'. BL/BL 180bs, 31w. You: latino, PW, 18-35. I live in Oakland, HIV-, honesty about your status more important than being looks. S 8716

Love shouldn't be Difficult

Hot/professional GWM LTR. I'm 40 yo looking man, 6'190#, fit, hairy tan, moustache, goatee, buzz cut. Honest, caring, romantic, not afraid of love looking for same. Men of color A+. Serious only. S 8747

It's not unusual to loved

GWM 36, average body, big heart, cute, yng, lkq, 5'10", 170#, Brn/hz, HIV-, balding, glasses, cln shaven, prof, fun, romantic, lustful, skg similar, pot smkr, movie watcher, dinner, traveler 30-45. Lots more! ☎ 8748

Married Italian Trim Athlete

Seeks other smooth bodies for satisfying intimacy. UB 30-45, trim. avail evens/weekends. ☎ 8749

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Rope Bondage

Bondage enthusiast interested in Shamanism ISO a masochist, 20-45, for exploration & partnership. You must be in shape & serious. I'm 5'9", 185, uncut, experienced, sadist. Serious only. ☎ 8519

Pretty Boy—Kitchen Maid Flirt

Bossy, arbitrary English sensualist wants slim, stupid, young boy for bondage, discipline, verbal abuse & more. ☎ 8520

Horny (Married)

Financial district professional, 39, 6'2", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, versatile, in great shape needs active out for hot encounters. Afternoons/evenings. ☎ 8521

Salt and Pepper Seeks Sugar

Handsome GWM, 50', tall, slim, gym toned, ISO 20-40, responsible NS, smoothish, cute, good body, GAM/GLM/GWM, dark hair, HIV-, for dating, fun times, good sex and more. ☎ 8522

Wanted: Big Firm Butt

Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 8523

Black Service

Proud wht/tough attitude but ready to get on his knees and be trained as a suck boy for in shape black men or vigorous boys. ☎ 8524

Oversexed? So am I.

Tall, HIV+, 35, nasty seeks 30-50, decent shape, HIV+ friend for hot sex, role playing, tit work, sex games. No drugs. Smoke OK. Daytime +. ☎ 8525

Oral Worship Given/Received

By long hair, goatee, hairy, 40 year old, 5'11", 170, in LTR, dark looks, average size. Available mornings before work & occasional evenings. You be 18-40, in shape, Cookies OK. Possible anal sex. ☎ 8526

Upper Market Jack Off Buddy

Horny, healthy, sexy, fun, HIV-, QWM with very nice body and beautiful cut cock seeks sexy, horny, fun, fit, HIV-, masculine guys or couples 20-35 for uninhibited JO and oral sessions. I'm 34, intelligent or creative a plus. ☎ 8527

East Bay

56 yrs, 6'2", 232 lbs. I would like to have cut white or Latino—hug—who would like service. From your feet to around the world. Call me, you will be pleased. ☎ 8528

FFB ISO Nasty Smaller Hands
Hole stretching dildos too. Good-looking GWM exhibitionist with hungry hole seeks tops into dildos, fisters with smaller hands. Will perform solo dildo fucking for voyeur with video camera. ☎ 8529.

Butt Fuck Me & Unload
Late night Castro sex 12-5 AM. Fri-Mon nights. Horny Italian, 44, 6', 190#, goatee, rugged build. Mount me, fuck me, until next time. ☎ 8530

Dad Sking Big Gang Bang 4 Boy
Mature GWM Dad seeks 3 or 4 black studs to fulfill his boy's gang bang fantasy. Boy is 31, slender, 6', 145 lbs and handsome. ☎ 8531.

ISO Older Men
GLM, 42, 6', 155#, ISO older men who enjoy slow sensual oral action & kissing. Prefer straight-acting, blue collar, facial hair. Smokers OK. Not into gay scene, leather, gyms. ☎ 8532.

Extremely Hairy?
35, 5'11", 175, br/b, muscular, handsome, seeks male, 30-48, muscular, fit with an extremely hairy body for fun. Love men with thick soft hair on arms, chest, back, etc. (everywhere). ☎ 8533.

Balls Deep Cock Sucker
Deep throat Dad does your thick dick. GWM, 46, 5'9", 135#, beard, digs masculine W/B/L meat trim, hung, horny, 30-40'. You shot. Repeat pumpers welcome. ☎ 8534.

Heavy SM/FF Top
Good-looking masculine, in-shape top/Master/man, 44, trustworthy, honest, drug-free, sane, wants good-looking masculine, in-shape bottom/slave/dog-boy, 20-40, to explore limits. Equipped playroom with slings. ☎ 8535.

Muscular Submissive
Strip. Close your eyes. Legs apart. Bend over. Dominant, tall, trim, 44, will train 30's bottom boy how to dress, stand, serve. Seeking: handsome, gym buffed, HIV-, no drugs/smokes, eager to please. ☎ 8536.

Like to Watch?
East Bay WM early 30's, HIV+ and healthy seeks other HIV+ people and gender or sexual orientation, who enjoy watching and being watched. Shaved, body art a plus. ☎ 8537.

Lets Attack Each Other!
Horny, in-shape, hung WM, 40's, 5'10", 170, HIV-, hairy chested animal will fight you for top. Wrestle, box, struggle for dominance. Prefer East Bay, black men. All answered. ☎ 8538.

East Bay Daddy ISO
Submissive boys or men, 18-25, who enjoys sucking and getting fucked for hours at a time. No pager. Out only. ☎ 8640.

Morning Noon & Night
Incredible bottom waiting for you. Mature, tight, beautiful bottom, legs, 5'9", 155 lbs, trim, hot & eager—SF & Marin. ☎ 8539.

Super Head
Looking for well hung, cut, tall & good-looking, HIV-top, 35-50 from SF interested in getting done by super mouth. I am eager, silver-haired, experienced, discreet, 5'8". ☎ 8540.

Leather Man Give N Take
Very muscled leather man, 6'2", 185#, very muscular, 40 yo, sexually wild, versatile, looking for butt play buddy, 25yo to 40 yo, also very muscled with preferred facial hair. Call. ☎ 8541.

All-American Seeks Asian
GWM, 36yo, 6', seeks versatile Asian males under 30 for discreet fun in SF and the East Bay. Boyish A+. ☎ 8542.

Hunting for Huge Weight lifter
Bait—Sex, handsome, Italian, 37, 5'10", 180, muscular, attentive, romantic, down to earth guy. I enjoy being passive in private, very supportive and loving. ☎ 8543.

Love to Fuck & You're Serious
And you want ass that's hot, wet, ready & takes it your way. Sexy GWM, 39, lean, trim, mas, goatee, shaved head. You: ht/w prop, msec & ready to fuck now! ☎ 8544.

Star at the Bottom
Extraordinary adventures await WM boy-next-door, 21-28. Be boilyish, handsome, fit, exhibitionist, dependable and dedicated to pleasing varied players. Uniquely raw, hot "leather." No pain or verbal abuse. ☎ 8545.

GLM Attracted to GLM & GBM
GLM, 32yo, 5'10", 170 lbs, cute, passionate bottom seeks regular adventures w/a hung top in SF. ☎ 8627.

Just Shut-Up and Ride!
WM, 32, 5'10", 200 lbs, blond/blue, muscle hunk (48" ch, 32" w, 18" arms) wants good-looking, masculine men to pump me or get pumped—anytime. ☎ 8628.

Hot Sex for Slim Men HIV- To 60
Hot slim WM, 57, HIV-, likes most safe sex videos, one on one or more. JO, cock, balls, tits, sucking, licking, just to name a few. What's your pleasure? ☎ 8629.

Dominant Top Man
Seeking masculine submissive for part-time house slave. Must be eager to please & detail oriented & available on a regular basis. ☎ 8630.

Mutual Cock sucking Needed
By 44yo, HIV+, GWM, drk hair, mustache with 1960's "Summer of Love" attitude seeks fellow wild child—N/Gym, N/PC, N/Activist. ☎ 8631.

Little Guy Seeks Big Mus Guys
Hi, I'm a cute Asian guy who seeks tall muscular guys. NS/ND please! For fun, friendly, relationship. I want someone to cuddle with. ☎ 8632.

Blonde Smooth Bottom Slender
Erotic hot bottom, 140#, 5'9", bubbly butt ready for daylight Daddy. ☎ 8633.

Flex Appeal
You hard body, 25-40, defined biceps, low to get ass fucked by thick 8" dick, service dick, flex and show off. Be: 6'1", br/b, 37, 190#, muscular, top, love to fuck. Do it! ☎ 8634.

Walk Around Hard with Us
SF guys seeking others for hot, creative, exhibitionist JO. Show off hard, walk around with a boner. Hang out with us as we explore different places around the city. ☎ 8635.

Pig Muscle Bottom Wanted
By hot, hung top. You be short, masculine, smooth, 20's-30's, with bubbly butt and into sensuous pleasure. ☎ 8636.

Expert Servicing
For attractive men, good bodies, 26-50, hot for great servicing by attractive clean white guy, 5'9", 160#, deep throat, hot mouth & butt to serve you—Some day, nights. ☎ 8637.

CBM South Bay
Masculine, in shape, 5'10", 184#, HIV-, love to suck dick. Bottom but haven't had dick in years. Looking for a dick to suck and fuck? HIV-. ☎ 8638.

Just Lie Back
While I sit on your cock and ride you to orgasm. Facial/body hair a plus. ☎ 8639.

Great Head For Married Men
And other trim well-hung guys. Kick back for hot mouth action by older GWM, 5'10", 165#, HIV-. Big loads +. ☎ 8642.

River Phoenix Incarnation
Seeks gentlemen for travel, political & spiritual activities! Into yoga & music & arts. Call now. ☎ 8643.

Sonoma Co. Body-Worshipper
Mature, masculine, healthy, intelligent, generous, eager to service slender, sensual guy, 18-35. Lie back, enjoy, instruct me. Reciprocation unnecessary. Your place or mine. Regular visits possible. ☎ 8651.

20yo GWM w/Big Bear Buddy
Wants other piercers & oral guys, 18-50, to help w/cock worshipping and other rituals. Wants to be hung, young & healthy. ☎ 8644.

East Bay Bear's Bear w/Cub
Seeks others for safe play. No pain, kinks otherwise. Let it all hang out. Only serious & safe need apply. ☎ 8645.

Hot Nasty Bottom Boys Only
For extended sessions of butt play. UB: 25-40 yo, GWM/GLM, good shape, enjoy being fed from both ends! Me: 40yo, GWM, good shape, 5'6", 140 lbs, talented top. No attitude. No BS. ☎ 8646.

Real Man Young Phone Boy
WM 40's very masculine dominant top seeks 18-21 submissive bottom boy into regular phone sex. You get trained, learn to please, cum on demand, become my slave, maybe meet? ☎ 8728.

Looking for Sex
Attractive GWM, 40.6", 195# and HIV+ seeks Asian, black, or Hispanic men for good sex. I love foreplay, anal and oral sex. Call me/you want be disappointed. ☎ 8730.

Petite Slim Asian
WM 40's very masculine dominant top 18-21 submissive bottom boy into regular phone sex. You get trained, learn to please, cum on demand, become my slave, maybe meet? ☎ 8728.

Leather Top ISO Trim Boy-Slave
Young AM, 5'2", wants to service smooth gym toned muscular WM. Blond and pecs A+! All responses answered. ☎ 8729.

Spanking for Sex
Young AM, 5'2", wants to service smooth gym toned muscular WM. Blond and pecs A+! All responses answered. ☎ 8729.

Leather Top ISO Trim Boy-Slave
Young AM, 5'2", wants to service smooth gym toned muscular WM. Blond and pecs A+! All responses answered. ☎ 8729.

CATEGORY

Parting Glances

Seeking Relationship

Seeking Adventure

Lesbian

Fetishes

Couples

Others

East Bay Fuck Buddy Wanted
Me 6', 160#, 45, white, HIV-. Want to suck, rim & get my hairy ass fucked. Any age or race. Maybe camcord/no faces but with my fuck/buddy/top? ☎ 8726.

Extra Thick Cock?
Seeking an attractive GWM with an extra thick cock who would like to get serviced by a hot 28 year old GWM. Hairy guys a plus. ☎ 8647.

Back and Front
Erotic oral service provided by straight-acting, trim-bodied WM, 40, for masculine cut guys with lean bodies born after 1960. ☎ 8648.

Big Meat Seeks Relief!!
Your mouth or tight ass is the perfect place for this hot, handsome, uncut, boyish top. You are in shape, submissive and want some fun! ☎ 8649.

Stunningly Attractive Master
27 year old top seeks generous submissives who need the firm hand of a young man. Safe, sane, experienced & HIV-. Leave a pleasing message. ☎ 8650.

South Bay Black Cock Craver Bi
Straight acting, good looking, smooth, white, long haired, 5'8", 150 lbs, 7X5 cut, shaved balls and ass seek built black studs. 2 guys even better. ☎ 8652.

Become #2 of 24
Polyfidelity group forming. Me: SWM, 5'11", 150#, older virgin. You under 25. Intelligent, optimistic, but not gullible, and looking for a challenge. ☎ 8653.

Napa Valley Spa Resort Owner
WM, 44, HIV-, seeks younger male to share finer aspects of life. Prefer versatile clean white guy, 5'9", 160#, deep throat, hot mouth & butt to serve you—Some day, nights. ☎ 8654.

Asians Seek Asians
GAM in SF, 5'9", 110# seeks other Asians into friendship, fun, very open , from mild to wild, also interested in group scenes. Hairy & uncut A+. ☎ 8652.

Hot Masculine Nasty Bottom
Bottom 5'11" 175# work out, looking for real nasty guys to come over and pound my butt, anyway you want, until you explode in ecstasy. ☎ 8722.

Just Shut-up and Ride
32, 5'10", 200#, blonde/blue cock. Also play & light spanking. Use me for your pleasure. I also like other things too!!! Me: 54 yr, 5'2", 115#, HIV-, mustache, balding, You over 45yrs, look lols, LTR possible. ☎ 8654.

Mariel BI Italian Seeks Asian
Fuck buddy for 100% hot healthy horny man. Must be 100% bottom. Waiting to service me. ☎ 8755.

Hot Masculine Nasty Bottom
One-to-one monogamous relationship. I'm GWM, 44, 5'10", 250 (loosing, tattooed/pierced). Into all rubber action from mild to W-L-D-D!!! ☎ 8657.

Attention Huge Nipples
Wanted by hot muscular 39yr old. I will service them for you. I'm very good at what I do, suck, lick, pull, etc. The bigger, freakier the better. ☎ 8658.

Scrub a Dub Dub...
Looking for a bath buddy. You scrub my back and I'll scrub yours...and we'll see where it goes. ☎ 8656.

Foot Fantasies Fulfilled Here
Lifelong excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's barefoot. Gding East Bay GWM, 5'8", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefoot and sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 8657.

Daytime Asshole Easter!
Get thy asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 8548.

Muscular Tit Pig
Good-looking, 47, 215#, 6'1", mustache, big nipples/pecs, tattoos. Into long heavy duty tit sessions. Toys, aroma etc. ☎ 8555.

Like to Suck and Jack Big Ones

Handsome guy (WM, young 40, 5'9", 200#) administers strict spankings to caught-clean-cut boy's bottoms (18-30). Safe anal humiliation optional.

Can also get what I fave from older or younger. ☎ 8549.

Mature Married WM Needs
HIV- to get rimming, cock & balls sucking, daytime Sebastopol or near by your place will not reciprocate. You need spanking, 50-70, PW/M HIV-. ☎ 8650.

Spankings in San Jose Drop 'em!
Handsome guy (WM, young 40, 5'9", 200#) administers strict spankings to caught-clean-cut boy's bottoms (18-30). Safe anal humiliation optional. Can also get what I fave from older or younger. ☎ 8549.

Genital Games
Imaginative top ISO gay or bi submissive/bottom for CBT. Lite to industrial strength. Muscles, tats leather etc. Explore. In shape only. ☎ 8740.

Turned on by Sweaty Arm Pits
Butch WM, 37, likes to suck you off after your workout. Love having your arm pits licked off, like it sweaty especially sweat soaked jockstraps. I like wearing your sweaty gym clothes while I'm sucking you off. I like hot nasty talk, seeks other white males 25-45. ☎ 8663.

Need LTR Hot Mouths to Service
Mature bi-married (sir) Sebastopol-Sonoma county daytime. Clean my asshole, crotch, uncut cock, balls. Golden rain. You: Pro, slim, HIV-, your place will not reciprocate. ☎ 8551.

Spanking Play

You are the fence builder from the E. Bay. I am the landscape builder you called, wrote but did not leave your phone #. I need it again so we can arrange a meeting. ☎ 8664.

Asian seeks Raunchy Fun
95, 5'5", 110# seeks guys who are slim & short into raunchy fun. Open to all things, esp. like other Asians, but whites/latinos also are welcome. Like groups. S 8731.

Wanted: Mature, Masculine
No attitude slut-pigs with big holes satisfy 9" hot, fat manhood. Experienced, available, sincere, easy to reach men only. Hot and fast action. Oakland. ☎ 8732.

Free Cockslapping Master Class!
Rest in peace Maria. Our moon too full of tick to sing! Now feel first hand (First tick) my "La Divina" techniques! Here comes the biggest load you ever shot! ☎ 8733.

A! Oral Service- Delivered
SF GWM HIV-, handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place or ours! ☎ 8734.

GWM Suit Trim Outgoing
Is looking 4 same 30-48. Love walks, talks, weekend buddy fucks, feet licking, leather/ Cowboy? ☎ 8735.

Callin all Tops
Now interviewing for monthly suck party with hot bottom boy who services each top one-on-one. Must be hot. Hot bottoms also welcome to apply for slave spot. S 8735.

Just Shut-up and Ride
32, 5'10", 200#, blonde/blue cock & balls sucking. Also play & light spanking. Use me for your pleasure. ☎ 8656.

Your Hand and Strap
Applied to my bare bottom is what I deserve. GWM, 40's, HIV-, seeks strict dad to take down my pants, haul me across his knee and spank me long and hard. ☎ 8558.

EWG Suit Trim Doinggo
Is looking 4 same 30-48. Love walks, talks, weekend buddy fucks, feet licking, leather/ Cowgirl? ☎ 8736.

Erotic Chastity Bondage
Suppressed erections/discharges, prolonged sensuality, open connected hearts/spirit. Mutual, slow, sweet, clean, no drugs. GWM, 51, 5'8", 180, fit, bald, beard, Novice DK. ☎ 8655.

Leather Slave Seeks Master(s)
Slave seeks "training" by experienced Leather Master into bondage and S&M. Slave: 40, 5'10", 200#, good build and looks. Interests include flogging, electricity, CBT, sex oriented, no drugs. ☎ 8656.

Heavy Bondage Play
Handsome GWM, 40, 5'11", in-shape, versatile, not for full leather and tall boots, ISO same for heavy bondage play. ☎ 8741.

Show Me Your Big Cuban Pride

And I'll swallow it! I have yet to meet a hung Cuban. Expert deep throat,

talented tongue, and great suction for your 8" u/nut dick. Cleaved body, big piss silts, overhang A+. ☎ 8742.

S&M Fantasy Games

Young sexy master and slave ISO

other similar couples to explore S&M

fantasy. Kink and imagination important. Under 35, HIV-, IN-shape only. ☎ 8743.

Rhymes with... soak

Cum soak, stroke, poke and... GWM

couple, 40's, HIV+, with facial hair

seeks adventurous tops/bottoms, versatile, singles, couples for slippery times in our hottub, sling and playroom. ☎ 8744.

Seeking Fun Kinky Sex Buddy

Into FF, ws, feet, nipples, sensual

touch and kissing, any race or body

type, Me/GWM, 6'3", 155, shaved head, stach/goatee. Balding/facial hair

A+ Big Ego F- ☎ 8756.

COUPLES

3 or More—Hot Latin Top

Hot Cuban, masculine with big hard

dick and into nipple work, raunchy

sex, light S&M, is looking for couples

over 40 for hot sex. ☎ 8559.

OTHER

Seniors

GWM, 30, 5'9", 138, very cute,

slim, defined, nice, easy going guy

fantasizes of being fondled, licked,

J'D by group of two or more GWM

seniors (65+). SF only. ☎ 8560.

GAM Workout Partner

Serious free weights & machines with

GWM for mutual benefit. 24-Hour

Fitness @ 16th & Potrero. Week

nights & weekends, when available.

Call for details. ☎ 8667.

49er—Dallas Game

Looking for other Niner fans to go to

the game with on Nov. 2nd & witness

some Cowboy butt kicking. ☎ 8668.

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is WEDNESDAY at 5 PM, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text.

The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

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State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Rock Hard Raunch Top Seeks Pig

Muscular, ripped, smooth scat top

wants serious, in shape pig to feed.

Me: 42, pumped and nasty. You:

under 45, eager, experienced and

hungry. ☎ 8665.

Looking for Love Or?

Me: hard top, flattop, handlebar stash,

5'9", 154#, extra hot & sexy, HIV-,

no inhibitions. Dresses in jeans, boots,

jockstraps, uniforms, leather, have

police tattoos on arms. Absolutely

no tweak or cocaine or heavy drinking.

Looking for similar guy. ☎ 8666.

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Spend and evening with a 50 YR,

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To be competitive today an advertiser needs to target his market. Advertisers in this publication know exactly the audience they are reaching. They get facts, not guesstimates or promises. The reason - we're audited by Verified, a national auditing service respected for over 40 years in the publishing industry. Verified's field and internal audits give our advertisers the facts they need and help us keep our distribution in top shape.

We are just as committed to giving our advertisers honest and precise circulation data as we are to providing our readers with interesting and valuable information. Credibility and integrity are an integral part of our business plan.

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Gay Comics #16	Special Gay Comics #1

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clearing your muscles of pain and stress.

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In/Out Van Ness Cash/MCV

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playful friendly guy \$45 • 387-9451

E45 NUDE AND VERSATILE

East Bay guy offers fullbody erotic

Massage, responds to your special

needs. I'm warm, friendly, 6'1", 165,

1hr \$25 • Jim (510) 527-2714

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Deep Tissue, Swedish, Shiatsu by 26yo

CMT. Experienced, quality bodywork

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Specialized sessions: Taoist/Tantric

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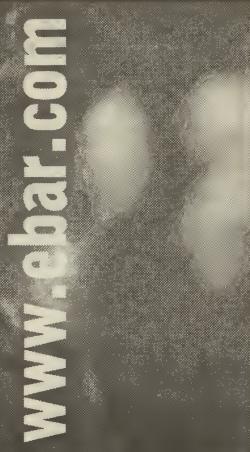
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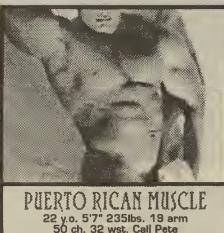
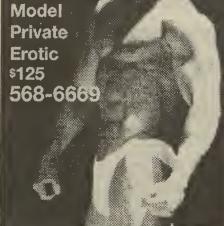
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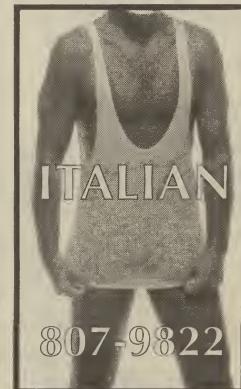
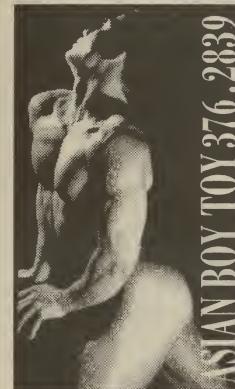
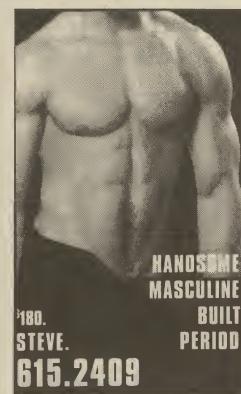


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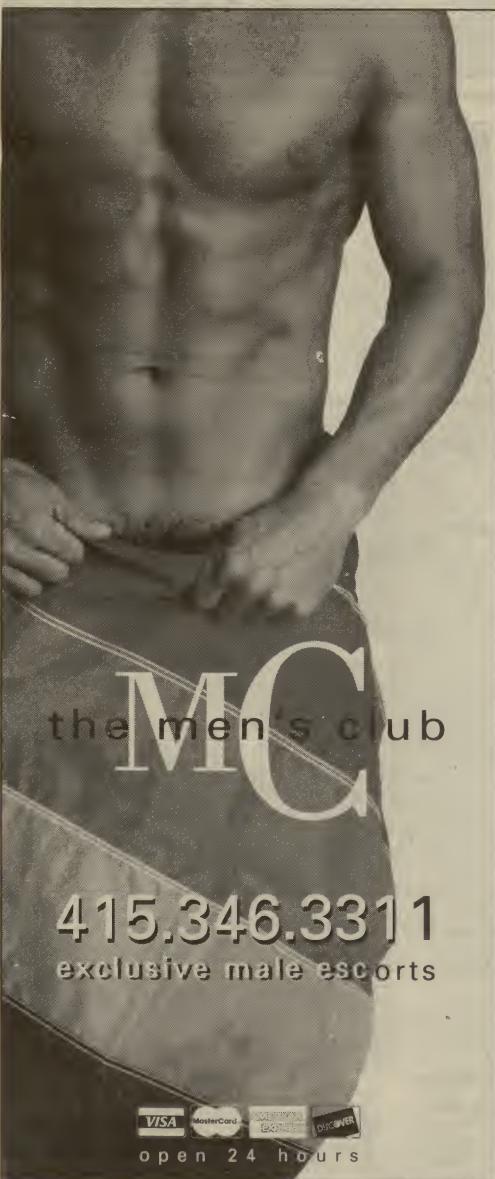
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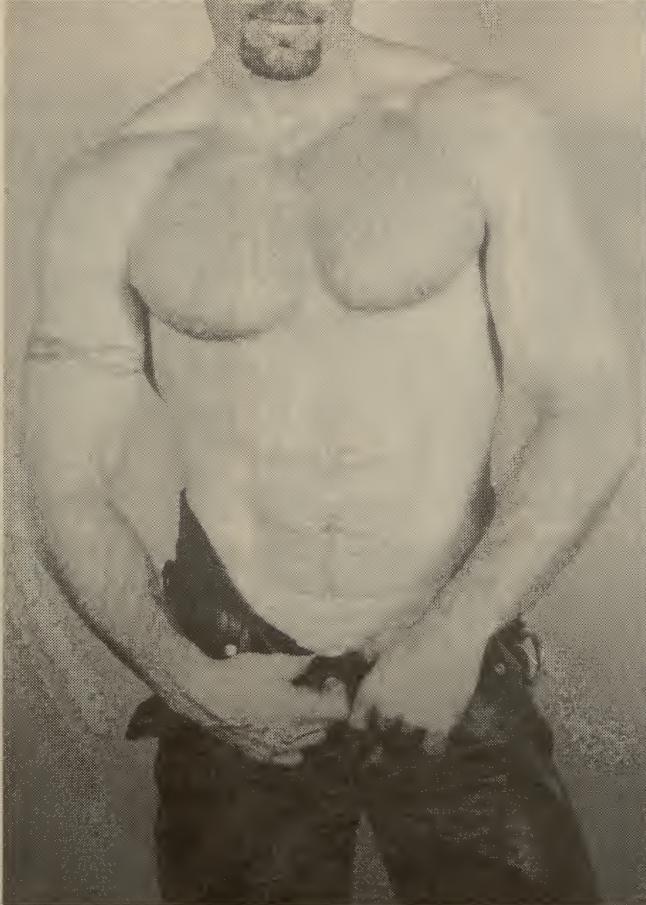
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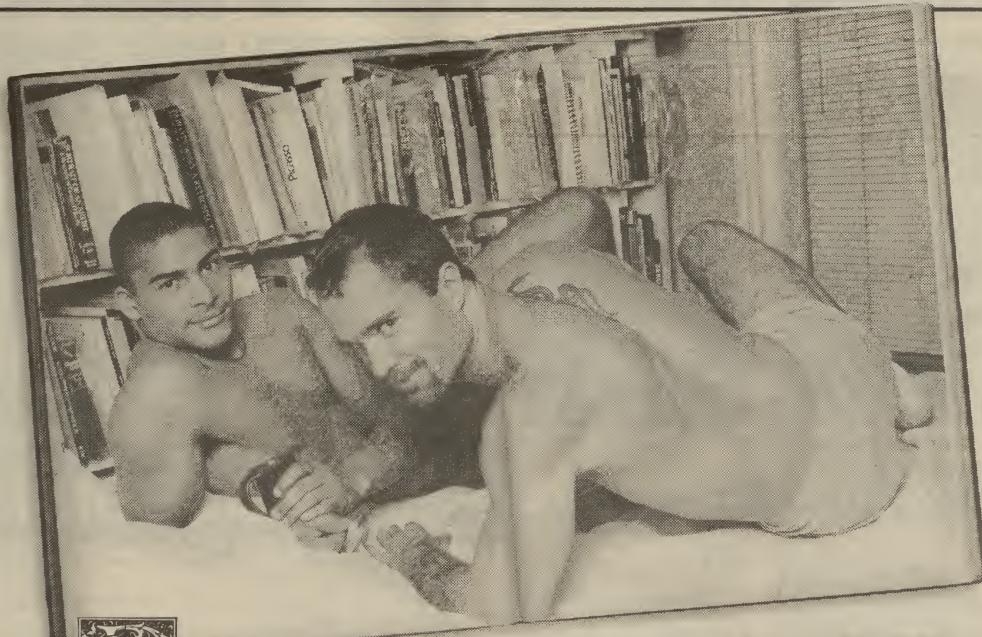
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